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Rockin' good time

Tim Hortons Brier kicks off Saturday at the Metro Centre

Academy Awards

Sunday is the biggest night of the year for movies and Metro offers a glimpse into what to expect.
 • Metro movie critics provide their predictions
 • The buzz around the Academy Awards, page 20



MATTHEW WUEST
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Halifax is about to get its fill of top-notch curling — and a rockin' good time.

The best men's curlers in Canada will compete for national supremacy when the Tim Hortons Brier opens Saturday at the Metro Centre, and along with the 81st annual event comes the legendary Brier Patch, where more than a few libations are passed around.

"It's a festival — a party — and there's a whole lot more going on than just the curling," said Newfoundland and Labrador skip Brad Gushue, who gained fame when he won gold at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Italy.

"The Brier Patch might be more legendary than the Brier and the curling. It's a real good time and the city really comes alive around an event like this."

The curling doesn't get much better, and Halifax — which last welcomed the event in 2003 and is now a six-time Brier host — knows from experience. Word among the curlers is Haligonians throw one of the best Briers around.

"To be honest, the 2003 is probably my favourite Brier," said Gushue, who has yet to win a national title. "We think it's going to be a pretty good show."

"It's a fun-loving crowd," added 2007 Brier-winning skip Glenn Howard of Ontario. "It's typical of the Eastern mentality — fun-loving and love life — and you can just sense it when



Local curlers break in the fresh sheets of ice at the Metro Centre on Thursday afternoon. The Tim Hortons Brier begins Saturday and runs until March 14.

you're in amongst the crowd."

Although two-time defending champion Kevin Martin won't be competing after winning gold at the Vancouver Games, there are some marquee names in the field.

Gushue and former world champions Howard and Jeff Stoughton of Manitoba are among the best on the planet, while others, such as Nova Scotia's Ian Fitzner-LeBlanc, are looking to make their own names.

"You never know who's going to come up and grab it," Howard said. "It really comes down to who's hottest over the week ... It's a really strong field and I think it's going to be a great Brier."

MORE COVERAGE, PG 15

Federal Budget

OTTAWA Hard decisions on wrestling a monstrous deficit have been punted one year down the road by a Conservative budget that promises dramatic future cuts, but leaves the punishing ground game for later.

Total federal spending in 2010-11, including debt charges, will hit \$280.5 billion — up almost \$13 billion over the fiscal year that ends March 31.

Program spending is projected to plunge almost \$8 billion in 2011-12 before rebounding slightly the following year.

"We can see our destination on the horizon," Finance Minister Jim Flaherty told the House of Commons, conjuring images of a future flat line.

The budget forecasts a deficit of \$53.8 billion this year, down slightly from the most recent \$56-billion projection, and red ink totalling \$49.2 billion in 2010-11. Flaherty says deficits will plunge dramatically after that, falling to a modest \$1.8-billion budgetary shortfall in 2014-15. But by then, the total federal debt is projected to hit \$622 billion — up \$136 billion from the \$486 billion on the books when Harper took power in 2006.

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MORE COVERAGE, PGS 3, 8



Wonderland lacking depth

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\$1.3M in funds available for daycare centres

LOANS Forty-five daycares in Nova Scotia, including 21 in HRM, are getting about \$1.3 million in funding from the provincial government to help them do repairs and renovations.

The government says non-profit and commercial daycares can use the loans for improvements such as new windows, installing accessibility ramps and adding energy-efficient furnaces.

Each daycare is eligible for a 75 per cent forgivable loan with payment of the remaining 25 per cent, or can apply for a low-interest repayable loan from the Community Services Department.

Commercial centres are eligible for a 25 per cent forgivable loan. They can pay the remaining 75 per cent, use third-party funding, or apply for a low-interest repayable loan from the department.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Budget may hurt N.S. long-term

'Good thing' now, but concerns about future cuts: Corbett

Federal Budget

PAUL MCLEOD
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Thursday's "stand pat" federal budget likely won't change life much for Nova Scotians this year, Deputy Premier Frank Corbett said Thursday night.

But future cuts to military spending and a freeze on public service programs could hurt the province long-term, he added.

The big bullet Nova Scotia and other provinces dodged was the Harper government not cutting transfer payments to provinces.

"It's not any big shock what was in the budget," Corbett told reporters. "There's no tax increases, no big cuts to expenditures here in Nova Scotia or in Atlantic Canada. In the world we live in today, that's a good thing."

But he warned future plans to cut billions from the military will disproportionately affect Nova Scotia. "We know there's going to be some kind of impact. How big or how small an impact is fairly difficult to gauge," he said.

Despite close to \$30 million allocated federally for



Deputy Premier Frank Corbett speaks to reporters at One Government Place in this file photo from January. Corbett responded to the federal budget at a press conference on Thursday night.

Mayor echoes deputy premier

- HRM Mayor Peter Kelly said he was "relieved and reasonably pleased" with the budget, mostly because it kept up gas tax transfers to

cities and GST rebates. But, like Deputy Premier Frank Corbett, Kelly said he expects things to get tougher starting next year.

ferry projects, Corbett said there would be no change to the decision to stop subsidizing the CAT ferry between Yarmouth and Maine. He hinted Harper's decision not to raise taxes could impact the NDP's choice of

whether to hike the HST by two percentage points.

Elsewhere across the province, reaction to the budget was mixed. The Halifax Chamber of Commerce endorsed the plan for its attempts to slow spending

growth. They were also happy to see \$600 million go to fostering growth and innovation.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees condemned the budget for continuing to lean on the Building Canada Fund. CUPE has frequently attacked that fund because it requires governments to enter into public-private partnerships to qualify for funding. CUPE says it results in a loss of control over public assets.

Virus outbreak prompts warning

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HEALTH Capital Health is asking sick people to stay away from hospitals and nursing homes after an outbreak of norovirus in a Musquodoboit Harbour nursing home.

So far five people have fallen ill at The Birches Nursing Home, with one of the cases confirmed to be norovirus, often known as Norwalk virus.

The virus causes vomiting, diarrhea, nausea and stomach cramping. In some cases it has been known to be fatal but none of the recent cases have been severe.

"It's something that kind of comes and goes pretty quickly but it's unpleasant while you have it," Capital Health spokesman John Gillis said Thursday.

The Birches is closed to visitors, except for compassionate reasons.

Because the virus is out in the community, health officials are urging people who feel ill, or are in close contact with someone who is ill, to stay away from hospitals and nursing homes throughout the region for at least three days after the symptoms end.

Health staff who exhibit symptoms are asked not to come to work.

"Norovirus is highly contagious so we just want to prevent spread proactively as much as possible," Gillis said.

Capital Health is also urging the public to wash their hands to reduce the spread of infection.

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Thursday's "stay-the-course" federal budget affects you at metronews.ca/canada

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News in brief

SUSPECTS HRP are looking for two men they say robbed the Petro Canada on Main Street in Dartmouth late Wednesday. The clerk complied with a demand for cash and cigarettes, police say, and the men fled on foot.

DRUGS A 43-year-old Dartmouth man is facing a charge of drug trafficking after police conducted a search of a residence on Windmill Road in Dartmouth Wednesday night.

METRO HALIFAX

Police treating attack as hate crime

SYDNEY Cape Breton Regional Police are investigating a possible hate crime after a man was allegedly assaulted outside a dance for gays and lesbians.

Police spokeswoman Desiree Vassallo said Thursday a 28-year-old man was punched in the face as he left the dance at the Southend Community Centre in Sydney at about 2 a.m.

"Investigators believe that it was a targeted act and they're treating it as a hate crime," she said. "Police are looking for two male suspects."

Peter Steele, chairman of Pride Cape Breton, said the incident occurred at one of two dances the group holds every month.

He said people at the dance told him two men were leaving the dance

when a car drove by and someone yelled homophobic comments.

Steele said they've never had trouble in the two decades they've been holding social events and was stunned someone might target gays and lesbians.

"This is certainly a first, so it's not only a major shock to us. It's a shock to the community itself," he said.

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Some municipal leaders are supporting NewPage Port Hawkesbury's plan to create energy from waste wood. Richmond County Warden John Boudreau says the project makes sense socially, economically and environmentally. NewPage wants to sell timber from Crown land to a proposed facility that would burn the waste wood to generate electricity. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

More repair work for sewage plant

ALEX BOUTILIER
for Metro Canada



WASTEWATER One might say the next week will be a crappy time to visit the Halifax waterfront.

Beginning Friday, the Halifax Wastewater Treatment Facility will temporarily close to make "essential deficiency repairs."

The repairs are meant to ensure a more even distribution of wastewater, better operation of the screening system, and more efficient handling of coarse screened material, according to a release from Halifax Water on Thursday.

For the duration of the repairs, expected to last approximately a week, the city's wastewater will be diverted from the treatment plant and discharged

from chambers along the Halifax waterfront.

Halifax Water spokesman James Campbell said the repairs are intended to make the facility more efficient in both the screening and disposal materials.

Campbell also said the deficiencies are not related to the much-publicized early 2009 malfunction of the plant.

"These are deficiencies that were identified prior to the malfunction," he explained. "This is just an opportune time for the contractor to go ahead and fix those."

On Jan. 14, 2009, malfunctions caused the facility to be flooded with raw sewage, destroying much of the electrical equipment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Accused murderer out on bail

CRIME A 24-year-old accused of second-degree murder against another man inside a home in North Preston last month is now out of prison under the province's adult bail supervision program.



Max Demarco Smith was granted bail Wednesday in Dartmouth provincial court after being in the Burnside jail since the murder charge was laid against him four weeks ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

month is now out of prison under the province's adult bail supervision program.

Max Demarco Smith was granted bail Wednesday in Dartmouth provincial court after being in the Burnside jail since the murder charge was laid against him four weeks ago.

Bikers propose new route

ALEX BOUTILIER
for Metro Canada



The Halifax Cycling Coalition is petitioning Halifax regional council to create a bike lane corridor to connect the city peninsula's north end to south end.

Coalition co-chair Steve Bedard said the proposed bike route, from the Fairview Overpass to Atlantic Street, would increase the safety of cyclists and encourage more people to switch from four wheels to two.

"One of the biggest barriers that prohibits people from cycling more is ... the lack of dedicated infrastructure," Bedard said. "What Halifax really lacks right now is a practical network that connects places where we live to places where we work, learn and play."

Bedard said there are several advantages to what the coalition is calling the "Crosstown-Connector."

"With a bike lane comes a gigantic amount of benefits, such as increased health of Haligonians, but also ... a whole slew of economic benefits that could benefit local businesses along our route," he said.

Coun. David Hendsbee, who sits on the Active Transportation Advisory



RYAN APARIN/METRO HALIFAX

Steve Bedard from the Halifax Cycling Coalition poses for a photo on a median at the intersection of Agricola and Cunard streets on Thursday. The coalition has started a petition to encourage HRM to create a bike corridor connecting the north end and south end of Halifax.

Committee, said more attention to bike infrastructure in the municipality is "long overdue." But he added one major challenge to the corridor is where to put the cars.

"The issue is going to be the parking places and the parking meters that (the corridor) would displace," he said.

The committee is look-

ing at several solutions, he said, including having bike lanes during the day but parking at night.

Bedard concedes parking is a potential hiccup.

"It all comes down to the issue of parking. That's going to be the toughest sell to the community," Bedard said.

"But again the neighbourhood is pretty accept-

ing of its cycling culture ... We've had really good feedback so far."

Hendsbee said he hopes the wheels will start turning on the issue soon.

"It's been chatted about and referred to in various bike report," he said. "It seems that we have to validate it through analysis, and sometimes it turns into paralysis."

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Tourist info centre in jeopardy

A tourist information centre in Inverness likely won't open its doors this summer unless there is an unexpected source of funding. **AMHERST DAILY NEWS**

More money for HRM despite fewer tickets

Municipality reaps financial rewards from parking ban

ALEX BOUTILIER
for Metro Halifax



With one week to go in the winter parking ban, Haligonians appear to be getting the message.

From Dec. 14 of last year until Feb. 20, Halifax Regional Municipality issued a total of 9,407 tickets.

In the same period last year, HRM issued 15,796 tickets.

Despite issuing fewer tickets, HRM expects to collect more money after doubling the fine to \$50, up from last year's \$25.



Firefighters respond to a call at a Dartmouth apartment building on Wednesday. Fire investigators have determined that two recent fires in Dartmouth were caused by arson.

Fires were arson, investigators say

PHILIP CROUCHER
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DARTMOUTH Fire investigators say fires at separate Dartmouth apartments this week were both deliberate, they say.

The first fire took place at 112 Pinecrest Dr. just after 5 p.m. Tuesday. An adult man died in the blaze, with Halifax regional fire spokesman Capt. Dave Meldrum saying the fire was started in the bedroom of an upstairs apartment with

matches or a lighter.

"We believe it was the deceased person who started the fire," Meldrum said.

The name of the victim hasn't been released. Everyone else in the building got out safely.

Also this week, an apartment fire that forced 12 people from their homes early Wednesday morning is now being investigated by police as an arson.

Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter said the file for the fire at a three-storey

apartment on the corner of Dundas and Portland streets was handed over to them from fire investigators late Wednesday.

"Basically they determined the fire was deliberately set at which time it becomes a police investigation," he said.

No one was hurt in the blaze. Four apartments in the back of the building were extensively damaged. A first-floor pub and a laundromat escaped damage. Five pets inside the building also got out unharmed.

Province buys into new project at TrentonWorks

INDUSTRY Nova Scotia taxpayers will own a piece of a new venture at the former TrentonWorks railcar plant as government sources say the province is taking a 49 per cent equity stake in the operation to be run by South Korean manufacturing giant Daewoo.

The \$90-million agreement scheduled to be announced Friday will see the

sprawling seven-hectare factory in Trenton reopened for the first time in three years to manufacture large components for wind turbines including rotor blades and support stands.

One government source said the final deal was concluded earlier this week between the province, the company and the federal government.

The source said the plant is the first foray into wind energy for Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering Co. Ltd.

No other details about the sale of the plant or government involvement are known, although sources have said funding will also be provided by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Immigration minister Jason Kenney says he takes "full responsibility" for a citizenship study guide that had all references to gay rights removed. But his Commons statement shed no light on who ordered the material cut from the document. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Canada



Getting it off their chests

The Quebec Women's Federation is upset by a contest organized by a strip club. The women want the Quebec City bar to cancel the promotion for free breast implant surgery, worth up to \$7,000. The bar owner wants to attract female clients on Sundays.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Budget losers

Budget Day may have been thumbs-up for Stephen Harper and Jim Flaherty, but it was thumbs-down for four of their files.

The environment, arts, poverty and international initiatives got short shrift in Thursday's budget.

• **Environment:** Watchdog Équiterre's Stephen Guilbeault is crying false advertising.

Although Wednesday's throne speech boasted a

Federal Budget

commitment to climate change, there are few budget measures directly related to it.

"Climate change is mentioned three times in the throne speech," said Guilbeault. "Nowhere is that commitment mentioned in the budget."

Guilbeault added: "I thought last year we'd hit

rock bottom. I think I was wrong."

• **International:** A Harper promise to focus international aid efforts on maternal and child health is not matched with extra aid funding.

• **Arts:** There is not a single mention of the arts in either the throne speech or the budget.

• **Poverty:** There are few measures in the budget to help the poor.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Taking a knife to liposuction

COSMETICS The nip-and-tuck business got nipped.

Jim Flaherty is cutting tax deductions for most cosmetic surgery.

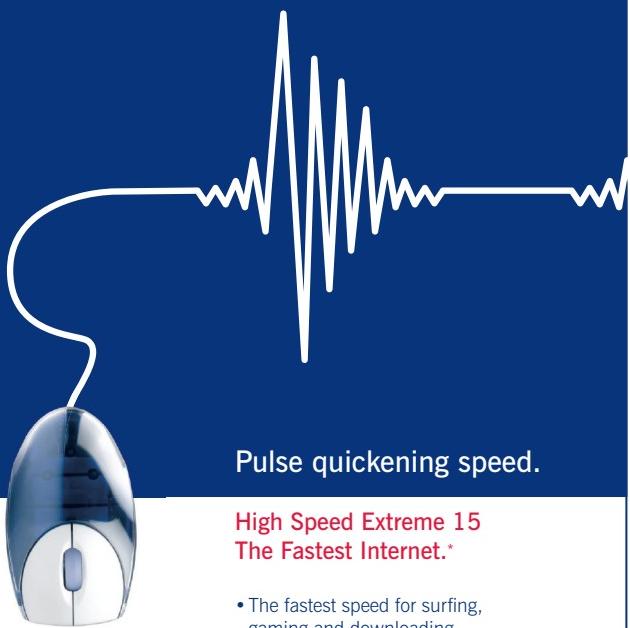
Boob and nose jobs, lipo-

suction and botox, hair replacements, teeth whitening and other procedures "purely aimed at enhancing one's appearance" are no longer eligible for a

medical tax credit.

Flaherty says this brings Canada inline with policies in Quebec, the United States and Britain.

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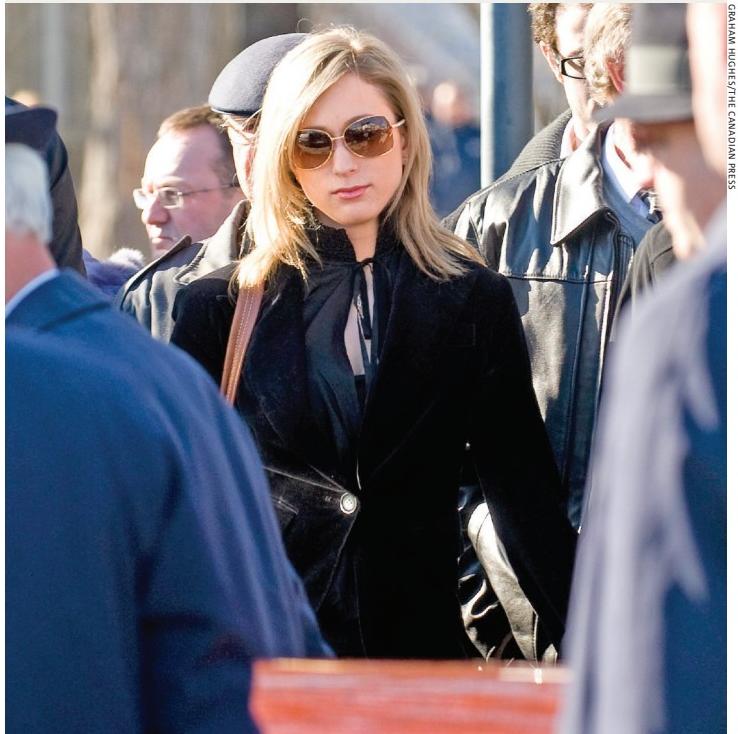
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Olympic hero Rochette bids farewell to mom



GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Figure skater Joannie Rochette, Canada's Olympic hero, bids farewell Thursday to the woman she called her best friend — her mother. Rochette's voice wavered and her eyes filled with tears as she paused several times to keep her composure while delivering a eulogy in Berthierville, Que. "She taught me how to be brave, she was always there for me," Rochette said.

No surprises, says N.B.'s Byrne

REACTION New Brunswick's finance minister says there were no surprises in what he's calling a "stay the course" federal budget.

Greg Byrne said he's pleased there are no cuts to federal transfers and equalization and there are a variety of initiatives that will benefit New Brunswick, including help for agriculture and forestry.

"There is additional funding for the child tax benefit and additional funding for university infrastructure improvement," he said.

"There is additional funding for research and development and we think it is going to be important that New Brunswick receive its fair share of research and development money."

But Byrne said he's anxious to learn more details when it comes to funding

Federal Budget

for Atomic Energy of Canada Limited.

The \$1.4-billion refurbishment of New Brunswick's Candu reactor is 18 months behind schedule and the province is paying nearly \$1 million per day to buy replacement power while the reactor is out of service.

The province has threatened to sue the federal government to recover the cost overruns.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Brian Burke reflects on what hockey's massive Olympics success will mean in the U.S. Scan this code for the story. Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 2

Papers fly as Ontario politicians pack up

POLITICS What's believed to have been the longest legislative session in Ontario's history ended Thursday with another rare event.

A paper fight. Reporters who cover the legislature marked prorogation by throwing hundreds of papers over the edge of the gallery to the floor of the chamber.

Speaker Steve Peters — who was tipped off — took the extra precaution of donning a hard hat before a deluge of documents rained down on his head.

"There were no paper cuts administered today," he joked.

Ontario's politicians won't be gone for long. A new session starts Monday with a speech from the throne. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Suicide prompts lawsuit

A family is suing Loto-Québec for \$1 million after a man with a gambling problem committed suicide near Montreal Casino, CBC News Online reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

canada 9

Court refuses hearing of ex-bikers' challenge

The Supreme Court of Canada has refused to hear a constitutional challenge from two former Hells Angels.

Steven Lindsay and Raymond Bonner were the first people convicted under Parliament's 2002 anti-gang law.

The Ontario Court of Appeal last year dismissed the challenge, upholding

the convictions for committing extortion "in association with" a criminal organization.

The former bikers had sought leave to appeal that decision to the Supreme Court, but the country's top court today dismissed that application.

At the pair's trial in Barrie, Ont., in 2005 the Superior Court judge declared

the Hells Angels a criminal organization for the first time in Canada.

The anti-gang legislation allows courts to impose up to 14 additional years in prison to anyone who commits a serious crime "for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with a criminal organization."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hostage taking ends peacefully

CALGARY Police say a former student who was holding a secretary at knifepoint at a Calgary school has been taken into custody and his hostage is unharmed.

Insp. Frank Reuser said a 25-year-old man was demanding to speak with the principal at A.E. Cross junior high school. He let the secretary — a woman in her late 40s — go in exchange for a bottle of water.

"Apparently he suffered an injury some years back and he's blaming the principal for this injury and now he wants to talk to the principal," Reuser said Thursday.

He added the injury was sports-related and hap-

School

- There was an armoured police vehicle on scene as well as dozens of marked and unmarked police cars. Roads around the school were shut down. An A.E. Cross website says the school has 575 students in Grades 7, 8 and 9.

pened in 2000.

The students, who were in an assembly at the time, were removed from the school and were all safe. The assembly actually made getting the children out much easier, he said.

A 13-year-old student was trapped in a separate room while police negoti-

ated with the man. Reuser said the teen was kept inside because he couldn't leave without passing by the office where the secretary was being held.

The trapped student was in touch by phone with both the police and his parents. Jessica Smith, who lives across the street from the school, said she saw dozens of police officers swoop into the building at around 2 p.m. local time.

The officers were armed with large guns and what looked like battering rams.

Shortly afterward, Smith said, students began streaming out. They were loaded on buses and taken to another school.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lab mistakes 'unacceptable': MP

HEALTH Health Minister Jerome Kennedy said Thursday that health officials from Toronto will come to Newfoundland next week to review a biochemistry lab at the centre of new testing errors at the province's largest health

authority.

Kennedy said the University Health Network will review all pathology labs at Eastern Health.

He told a news conference he is "deeply concerned" about the lab errors involving the anti-re-

jection drug cyclosporine, especially a year after an inquiry into breast cancer testing errors at Eastern Health.

"What's happened in the lab is totally unacceptable," Kennedy said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Ecuador.....12.9 ¢	Honduras.....15.9 ¢
El Salvador9.9 ¢	Iraq.....4.9 ¢
Jamaica.....8.9 ¢	Israel.....2.9 ¢
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Kenya.....6.9 ¢	Russia.....2.9 ¢
Kuwait.....6.9 ¢	Saudi Arabia.....3.9 ¢
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News in brief

ASSAULT Police in Windsor, Ont., have identified one suspect and are trying to identify two more after a man was beaten with a hammer and pieces of wood following a dispute with his neighbour. The three allegedly burst into the downstairs apartment and hit the tenant in the face with a hammer, and then pieces of wood on Wednesday night. The victim was able to grab a frying pan and hit one of the suspects who then took off. The suspects were last seen running from the house.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police have found the body of a Toronto man who wanted to test his survival skills in the woods north of Huntsville, Ont., on what was to be a weekend trip. Richard Code was an avid follower of the television show *Survivorman*. Police told his brother that Code died of hypothermia. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Families mourn fallen soldiers

Christine Plamondon wanted to see where her boyfriend spent his final days. Trooper Jack Bouthillier had only been away for a short while when a roadside bomb took his life, and they hadn't talked much about what it was like to be on the base.

"It was important for me to come here just to be in Jack's shoes in his last moments," Plamondon said Thursday. "To feel what he felt, to smell what he

smelled. To know what the guys do over here, because we didn't have a big chance to talk about it since he was only here for three weeks."

Plamondon joined Bouthillier's father, Raynald, and the families of five other soldiers killed during the Afghan mission Thursday at a special ceremony held at Kandahar Airfield.

The ceremony honoured Bouthillier, Cpl. Christian Bobbitt, Maj. Yannick Pepin,

"To feel what he felt, to smell what he smelled. To know what the guys do over here, because we didn't have a big chance to talk about it..." Christine Plamondon

Cpl. Jean-Francois Drouin, Pte. Alexandre Peloquin and Cpl. Martin Joannette.

It was a chance for the families to see where their sons and husbands lived and worked, a glimpse at the country they'd heard so much about in the emails

and phone calls home.

Plamondon toured the base with the families, taking in the wood-plank boardwalk with its fast-food outlets, jewelry stores and carpet shops.

At the ceremony they knelt before a memorial to

slain troops to lay wreaths and letters to their lost loved ones.

The governor of Kandahar, Tooryalai Wesa, thanked the families for the ultimate sacrifice their loved ones made to make his country a better place.

"Please know that our Afghans will always remember and honour the sacrifice made by Canadian soldiers and their families," he told them.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Generals talk Laying out military strategy



FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gen. David Petraeus, right, commander of U.S. Central Command, chats with Canadian Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Walt Natynczyk at a defence conference in Ottawa Thursday. Petraeus flew to the nation's capital to lay out his country's military strategy in Afghanistan. He said an enormous amount of difficult work and tough fighting lies ahead in the 8½-year-old war.

Fund lap banding, provinces urged

HEALTH After having four children and putting on a lot of middle-age weight, Tracey Wurch tried to work off the excess pounds but couldn't seem to get far.

The 46-year-old from Beausejour, Man., decided surgery was necessary and hoped medicare would cover the cost of a relatively new stomach-reducing procedure called laparoscopic

gastric banding — commonly called lap banding.

But she was told that, like most provinces, Manitoba does not pay for the procedure, so last month she went to a clinic in Tijuana, Mexico, and paid \$5,500 for a different operation.

Wurch and others believe provinces should follow the lead of Alberta, which covers the cost of

lap banding for people who are severely obese. Manitoba's NDP government is hinting that it may move in that direction, just not right now.

With obesity rates rising, governments have to decide between paying for operations such as lap banding now, or facing higher obesity-related costs later, Wurch suggests.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario mulling surgery changes

HEALTH A plan that may force patients in Ontario to travel farther for some operations to save taxpayers' money could endanger the health of people in rural communities, critics said Thursday.

The plan would reportedly see hospitals compete for cash by doing surgeries such as hip replacements more cheaply than rivals.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fast-tracking Haiti immigrants delaying other applications

IMMIGRATION The government's decision to fast-track sponsorship applications from earthquake-hit Haiti is upsetting some Canadians trying to sponsor family members to Canada because their applications are being delayed, CBC News Online reports.

Veronique Irani said she began her quest 18 months ago to bring her husband

to Ottawa from Liberia. She is frustrated her application with Citizenship and Immigration Canada could take even longer now that it has decided to speed up applications from Haiti.

The agency is currently processing more than 3,000 applications from Haiti, with more expected.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

ABC to air Dugard video

ABC says it will air home video Friday of kidnapping victim Jaycee Dugard, who was rescued last August after 18 years in captivity. The network says Dugard, her mother, Terry Probyn, and her half-sister Shayna will be seen and heard for the first time on-camera since she was abducted in 1991 near her home in South Lake Tahoe, Calif. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

World



UN official condemns honour killings

The UN's top human rights official is condemning domestic violence and the killing of women in the name of honour. Navi Pillay, left, says one in three women across the world are beaten, raped or otherwise abused sometime in their lives. Pillay says about 5,000 women each year are victims of so-called "honour killings," in which relatives kill women for relationships they believe bring shame to the family.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Men banned from styling women's hair

Gaza's Islamic Hamas government on Thursday banned men from working in women's hair salons, the latest step in its campaign to impose strict Islamic customs on Gaza's 1.5 million people.

Since seizing Gaza in 2007, Hamas has taken steps in that direction while avoiding a frontal assault on secularism. The majority of Gaza residents are conservative Muslims, but Hamas is under growing pressure from more radical groups to prove its fundamentalist credentials by imposing ever harsher edicts.

The latest measure irked one of the victims of the ban.

"Next thing you know, they will ban doctors from treating women, and will only let women treat women," said Barakat al-Ghoul, a 44-year-old hairdresser. "Tomorrow, they will ban everything."

Al-Ghoul, who has cut women's hair for 26 years, said a ban would be devastating. He said he has no other way of making a living.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Next thing you know, they will ban (male) doctors from treating women."

Barakat al-Ghoul,
Gaza hairdresser

ing. Islamic tradition forbids women from showing their hair to men who are not their husbands or blood relatives. Until now, though, exceptions were made for the eight known male hairdressers in women's salons in Gaza City.

Since Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, small ultra-radical Islamic groups have sprung up. Known as Jihadi Salafis, they advocate holy war and a strict, fundamentalist brand of Islam, dismissing Hamas as too pragmatic.

They are suspected in dozens of bombings of Internet cafes, music stores and other alleged purveyors of vice. All cinemas and bars closed years ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scientists conclude that asteroid killed dinosaurs

EXTINCTION An all-star panel of researchers says it was the crash of a giant asteroid that killed off the dinosaurs.

Think you've heard that before? You're right. In 1980, Louis Alvarez and his son Walter published a paper blaming the dinosaur extinction 65 million years ago on an asteroid impact.

The probable crater was later found at Chicxulub, Mexico, and the idea gained wide scientific acceptance. In the past few years, however, suggestions were made

that the demise of the dinosaurs might have been caused by the eruption of volcanoes, known as the Deccan Traps, in India, or multiple asteroid impacts. That prompted 41 geologists, paleontologists and other researchers to come together to review the data. Their conclusion, published in Friday's edition of the journal Science: It was a giant asteroid that blasted a cloud around the world that led to the end of the dinosaurs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE
While hardly a new slant, a top Republican is in hot water for "joker" swipe at Obama. Scan this code for the story.

News in brief

CANING Malaysia's largest English-language newspaper has refused to publish a column on the caning of three Muslim women, weeks after it got into trouble over a similar article.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

India Dozens killed in stampede



A man comforts a woman in Kunda, India, Thursday. At least 63 people were killed and dozens of others injured in a stampede that broke out as thousands of people jostled each other to get free clothes and utensils being distributed during a religious function.

Violence mars advance polls

IRAQ A string of deadly blasts shattered an early round of voting in Iraq Thursday, killing 17 people and highlighting the fragile nature of the country's security gains ahead of crucial parliamentary elections this Sunday. Three explosions — a rocket attack and two suicide bombings — showed the ability of insurgents to carry out bloody attacks. They have promised to disrupt the voting with violence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Combien de portes une éducation en français ouvre-t-elle à vos enfants?

Toutes!

La Semaine de la promotion de l'éducation acadienne et francophone en Nouvelle-Écosse se déroule du 8 au 12 mars 2010. Dans le cadre des activités entourant cette semaine, les 19 écoles du Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) organisent des portes ouvertes.

C'est l'occasion idéale d'apprendre de quelle façon vous ou votre enfant sera avantageé sur le plan culturel, social et économique en fréquentant l'un des centres de la petite enfance, l'une des écoles élémentaire ou secondaire, une institution post-secondaire ou l'un des cours d'alphabétisation. Il y a aussi plusieurs programmes et services reliés à la petite enfance disponibles dans les communautés acadiennes et francophones. Ces programmes et services offrent des expériences en développement du langage à partir d'un très jeune âge.

Si vous, votre conjoint ou conjointe ou un grand-parent est Acadien ou francophone, vous avez l'opportunité de faire profiter votre enfant de meilleurs avantages de vie.

Pourquoi ne pas en profiter? Durant la semaine, visitez l'une des écoles du CSAP de la Nouvelle-Écosse et voyez de quelle façon cet avantage peut améliorer l'avenir de votre enfant. Téléphonez à l'école la plus près de chez vous si la date des portes ouvertes ne vous convient pas. Le transport est fourni aux élèves dans les régions géographiques de chaque école.

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How many doors offer life advantages for Acadian and Francophone children? Every one of them!



During the week of March 8-12, 2010, all 19 Nova Scotia's Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) schools will be holding open house events. Parents can learn how sending Acadian and Francophone children to any one of these schools will open doors of opportunity for their children.

If you, your spouse or one of your grandparents is Acadian or Francophone, this is your opportunity to offer your children cultural, social and even economic life advantages. You can achieve this by sending your children to one of the CSAP early childhood centres, elementary or secondary schools, post-secondary or one of the courses in adult education. Many early childhood programs and services are available in the Acadian and Francophone communities. These programs and services offer an array of early language learning experiences to the young child.

French language post-secondary education at both the collegiate and university levels are also available in Nova Scotia. Many adults have rediscovered their French language and heritage through literacy courses.

It's your heritage, so why not take advantage of it? Visit the school nearest you listed below to learn about offering a better life for your child. Call the school for an appointment if the date of the open house is not convenient for you. Student transportation is provided in the geographical area of each school.

Enter the door prize draw for a chance to win \$500 in cash!

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Concert (free admission): Tuesday, March 9, at 7:00 p.m.

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211 Portage Avenue, Dartmouth, NS – 433-7070
Open house: Tuesday, March 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Concert (free admission): Tuesday, March 9, at 7:00 p.m.

École du Carrefour

201A Portage Avenue, Dartmouth, N.-É. – 433-7000
Open house: Wednesday, March 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Concert (free admission): Wednesday, March 10, at 7 p.m.

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Project of eight (8) organisations sharing the same goals in education.



Cyber threats another concern for NATO

NATO is facing new threats in cyberspace that cannot be met by lining up soldiers and tanks, the alliance's secretary-general said Thursday in an apparent reference to terror groups and criminal networks.

Anders Fogh Rasmussen said there were several international actors who want "to know what's going on inside NATO, and they also use cyberspace to achieve their goals."

He refused to give details or name groups except to say there were "many of them."

"It's really a broad range of threats. There are many actors in cyberspace, and we have to develop a capacity to protect ourselves against those attacks," Fogh Rasmussen told reporters on the sidelines of a one-day NATO seminar in Helsinki, Finland.

The alliance has been reticent to discuss its actions in countering cyber-attacks and threats, but

was prompted to tackle the problem after hackers unleashed a wave of attacks against NATO-member Estonia three years ago.

The barrage crippled dozens of government and corporate sites in what is one of Europe's most wired countries. It prompted NATO to enhance its cyber war capabilities and to establish the alliance's cyber defence research centre in the Estonian capital, Tallinn, in 2008.

The organization also set up an agency to manage cyber defence across NATO's communication and information systems and to help members in defending against cyber-attacks.

Fogh Rasmussen reiterated that "the core function"

of the alliance would still be to defend its members' territories and populations. But in modernizing the alliance, "it's not sufficient to line up soldiers and tanks and military along the borders. You really have to address the threat at its roots, and it might be in cyberspace."

Thursday's seminar, on increasing strategic co-operation between NATO and its partners, was chaired by the foreign ministers of Finland and Sweden — both non-NATO members that work closely with the alliance.

Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt said there is "no peace" in cyberspace.

"There are terrorists, spies, subversive attempts, ongoing attacks as well as preparations for much more disruptive and destructive operations," Bildt said. "There will be no security for our societies if we can't secure both our cyberspace and our orbital space." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Fogh-Rasmussen
research centre
in the Estonian
capital, Tallinn, in
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Fogh Rasmussen reiterated that "the core function"

Paris' Champs-Elysees will be cleared of traffic and blanketed with grass, flowers and trees for three days in May — giving Parisians a chance to picnic there or stroll down the famous avenue barefoot. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Champs-Elysees to be transformed for three days

Rains hamper searches in Uganda

FLOODS Heavy rains in eastern Uganda have triggered flooding that has displaced more than 20,000 people and hampered search efforts to find victims of massive landslides feared to have killed hundreds, officials said Thursday. Persistent heavy rains since early in the week have flooded more than 30 villages in the country's east, leading to the displacement of more than 20,000 people, said Joel Aguma, the police commander for eastern Uganda. Villagers have headed to higher ground and are waiting for assistance from aid groups and the government, he said. Rains on Monday triggered massive landslides that buried three villages in the Bududa region, burying what officials believe to be several hundred people. Rescuers have recovered 92 bodies so far but were unable to continue searching Thursday because of the rain, said Kevin Nabutuwa of the Uganda Red Cross.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

India Gunfight in Kashmir



An Indian army soldier stands guard as a Kashmiri woman looks out of her window near the site of a gun battle Thursday. An Indian Army captain was killed, the second loss of an officer in less than 10 days in Jammu and Kashmir, and four guerrillas were shot dead in a gunfight, officials said.

Male-on-male sexual harassment complaints on the rise in the U.S.

LAWSUIT Jonathan Pilkington's boss wouldn't take no for an answer.

During more than two years as a food runner at an upscale steakhouse in Scottsdale, Ariz., Pilkington says his male supervisor groped, fondled and otherwise sexually harassed him more than a dozen times.

"It was very embarrassing," Pilkington said. "I felt like I had to do something because the situation was just so bad."

Now Pilkington, a married father of two, is the star witness in a U.S. federal lawsuit against Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar and one of a growing number of American men claiming they are victims of sexual harassment in the workplace.

While some cases allege harassment by female supervisors or co-workers, most charges involve men harassing other men. Some-

Claims doubled

- From 1990 to 2009, the percentage of sexual harassment claims filed by men has doubled from eight per cent to 16 per cent, according to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportu-

nity Commission. Lawyers at the commission say they've noticed the increase in complaints by men — more than 2,000 were filed in 2009 out of about 12,700 cases.

times it's unwelcome romantic advances. Other times, men are picked on because they are gay, perceived as being gay or not considered masculine enough for the work setting. In the past, some employers might have shrugged off such antics as horseplay or fraternity-type behaviour. But the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has been filing more lawsuits involving male victims, saying it wants to send a message that such behaviour is unacceptable and unlawful.

In November, for example, the Cheesecake Factory restaurant chain agreed to pay \$345,000 US to six male employees who claimed they were repeatedly sexually assaulted by a group of male kitchen staffers at a Phoenix-area restaurant.

The commission said the abusers would drag some victims kicking and screaming into a walk-in refrigerator, touching and grinding against the victim's genitals and take turns simulating rape. The company denied the allegations, but agreed to make a financial settlement and educate its employees and managers about sexual harassment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

WYOMING A California U.S. Marine accused of using Craigslist to arrange the rape of an ex-girlfriend has pleaded not guilty to five felonies. Jebidiah Stipe entered his plea in Wyoming's Natrona County Court on Wednesday. Prosecu-

tors say Stipe posted an ad on Craigslist pretending to be a woman and asking for someone to help play out a "rape fantasy." Prosecutors say a man, Ty Oliver McDowell, replied to the posting. McDowell is accused of raping the

woman inside her home on Dec. 11. He has pleaded not guilty. A U.S. Marine Corps spokesman says Stipe was being discharged from the military "as a result of a pattern of misconduct" at the time of his arrest.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Expense rules positive, but belated

UrbanCompass

Stephen Kimber



t happened so long ago Alexa McDonough was still the leader of a ragtag band of New Democrats in the provincial legislature. And I was a still-young-ish reporter.

McDonough had just introduced a private mem-

ber's bill to reform the ways in which political parties got financed. Its specifics have long since escaped my memory. But I do recall everyone knew the legislation — like virtually all such proposals that arrived without the imprimatur of the party in power — had no chance of passing. Her critics accused her of grandstanding.

Why should we believe you're serious, I asked her?

You shouldn't, she replied matter-of-factly. That's why we need laws. To make sure whichever

party forms the next government, or the one after that, can't just do what will benefit its own interests. Voters, she said, shouldn't have to depend on the too often empty promises of campaigning politicians. Of any stripe.

I couldn't help but think of that as I watched the MLAs expense scandal unfold. The NDP is now the government. It has the power to reform the system. But its record to date is mixed.

The NDP started off well enough. It eliminated the policy of providing cabinet

ministers with cars, for example. That was a logical next step in a reform process that had begun with Ernie Fage's 2006 fender bender.

The fact the minister was driving an expensive, taxpayer-provided vehicle at the time had already prompted Rodney Macdonald's Tories to tighten the rules on cabinet ministers' pricey rides. (Scandal, of course, has long been the best — often the only — driver of reform.)

And the NDP, during its first legislative session last

fall, killed a number of the most outrageous perks of office, including the too-generous severance package for retiring or defeated MLAs and payments for chairing ghost committees, and cut back on members' technology allowances in the name of fiscal restraint.

But the government has continued to resist efforts to open up the process for appointing people to provincial boards and commissions — reforms it had championed in opposition — and it waited until after the firestorm over the audi-

tor general's report to make changes to an MLA expenses system it knew was corrupt.

The new and more transparent expenses rules announced this week are another positive, if belated step, but not until those changes get enshrined in legislation and regulation.

As McDonough rightly said, we shouldn't ever have to depend solely on politicians' promises.

Stephen Kimber, the Rogers Communications Chair in Journalism at the University of King's College, is the author of eight books.

Views

Placing a call for worst cellphone bills

Marketplace

Wendy Mesley

metronews.ca/mesley

Dale Bass is a cellphone customer from Kamloops, B.C., with a text-mad son. Dale decided to add Liam to her family plan. She believed she was buying an unlimited text message package but when she got her bill, discovered she was getting charged for extra text messages at the rate of 15 cents a pop.

We've been investigating stories like Dale's and have put out a call for Canada's worst cellphone bill.

Here are some tips when looking for a cellphone package.

Check your bill regularly — and carefully. Spotting a problem quickly can help your case.

Document everything. When dealing with a customer service representative get as much as you can in writing or write down the details yourself. Get the rep's name, the details of your plan, how they've offered to fix your issue, and date your notes in case you have to refer to them later.

Talk to a manager or supervisor. If you're getting nowhere with front-line reps, ask to speak with a manager. And if you are refusing to pay your bills in the interim, cellphone companies could suspend your service or report you to a collection agency.

Complain to a third party. Report your grief to the Commissioner of Complaints for Telecommunications Services. If you're getting the runaround, it can make the company deal with it, and if you don't like the outcome it may investigate further.

Check out the competition. There are online serv-

ices that can suggest better plans for you than the one you might currently have.

Make the cellphone companies compete for your business.

Tell them you'll be talking to others to find the best deal. And even when you're ready to sign on, get the shortest term possible to keep flexible as your needs change and rates get more competitive.

Find out who has Canada's worst cellphone bill on Marketplace tonight airs at 8:30 on CBC Television.

Wendy Mesley is a co-host of CBC News: Marketplace, Canada's award-winning consumer affairs show, which airs each Friday at 8:30 p.m. on CBC Television.

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Orders to U.S. factories posted the biggest increase in four months in January, led by a surge in demand for commercial aircraft. The increase was another sign that manufacturing is helping to support the economic recovery. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Leonard Asper steps down as Canwest CEO

After a long battle to remain at the helm of Canwest Global Communications, Leonard Asper announced Thursday he has resigned as president and CEO of the crumbling newspaper and broadcast empire founded by his father.

The move, widely expected after Calgary cable giant Shaw Communications won bankruptcy court approval to take control of Canwest's broadcasting assets, nearly severs the last Asper family tie to the Winnipeg company. Leonard's brother and sister, David and Gail Asper, resigned from the Canwest board last month, though technically the family still holds a controlling block of multiple-vote shares in

Canwest.

In a brief note to Canwest staff, Leonard Asper — the son of Canwest founder Israel (Izzy) Asper who died in 2003 — expressed little emotion as he announced his departure as a "natural time for me to move on."

"This decision did not come without a lot of careful consideration," wrote Asper, whose own last-minute bid to retain some control over the company failed when Shaw's offer won approval.

"Taking this action now

will also allow me to pursue other business opportunities and avoid any conflict of interest that I may have."

Asper, 45, will continue on as a consultant to Canwest until the restructuring process has been completed.

"As I embark on a new path, I will be taking with me many fond memories from my years as CEO, most of which centre on the inspiring and talented people with whom I was fortunate enough to work," Asper wrote.

Canwest's TV business will continue to be managed by Peter Viner and senior management at newspaper publishing and online operations will stay the same. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Leonard Asper

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Court Yukos vs. Russia



Paul Wright, left, a lawyer of the Russian government arrives at the European Court of Human Rights ahead of a hearing on the Yukos versus Russia case in Strasbourg, France on Thursday. The European Court of Human Rights began hearing a complaint against Russia by representatives of now-defunct oil giant Yukos, whose jailed founder, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, claims authorities illegally drove the company out of business.

New rules for income trusts

Canada Budget

TAX The federal government is moving to restrict income trusts looking to shelter themselves from taxes by acquiring large tax losses in complex deals with unrelated companies.

"Aggressive schemes have been designed to use these provisions to achieve inappropriate tax loss trading that would not be allowed as between two corporations," the government said in Thursday's budget.

Under the new rules, trusts acquiring a business with big tax losses will be restricted in their ability to use those losses to shelter their earnings from taxes like a corporation would be when acquiring another corporation.

Starting next year business income trusts will begin to be taxed more like corporations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Greece passes key test with successful bond issue

ATHENS Greece raised badly needed cash with a bond issue Thursday, passing a key test of its ability to avoid a disastrous debt default and dig out of a financial crisis that has shaken the European Union.

The bond was oversubscribed — meaning demand exceeded available bonds — within an hour of the book opening, with 7 billion euros (\$9.5 billion U.S.) in offers received. The government was seeking a maximum of 5 billion euros, said the chief of Greece's debt management agency, Petros Christodoulou.

Austerity measures

- The announcement of the issue comes a day after debt-ridden Greece detailed a whole new round of painful austerity measures,

including salary cuts for civil servants, pension freezes and tax hikes on cigarettes, alcohol, luxury goods and gems.

Government spokesman George Petalotis said market response to the issue was encouraging.

"We are pleased because there is very heavy demand, and that means something, it is an indication."

The sale reflects on Greece's ability to raise money to pay off expiring

bonds and avoid the risk of default. But although the final offer and yield figures were not immediately available, a note from UniCredit Research said the yield was expected to be around 6.5 per cent — more than double the yield on benchmark German bonds of similar maturity.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business in brief

PERMITS Municipalities issued \$5.7 billion in building permits in January, a 4.9 per cent decline from December. That's still 32.7 per cent higher than January 2009.

FOOD The corn industry is lash-

ing out at an Oscar-nominated documentary, Food Inc., that has grossed out grocery shoppers, saying the film is unfair to many of the nation's farmers and shouldn't win.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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2010

Tim Hortons Brier



EDITOR: DON.MCHOUILL@METRONEWS.CA



Halifax's Ian Fitzner-LeBlanc, who won the Molson Tankard last month, is set to make his Brier debut.

'Were taking this seriously'

He may not be the favourite, but Fitzner-LeBlanc is out to win

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Ian Fitzner-LeBlanc will start the week as the baby of the bunch at the Brier. If things go his way, he'll finish it as the hometown hero.

The 25-year-old Haligonian is making his debut at the Canadian men's curling championship at the Metro Centre starting Saturday. As the youngest skip on the ice, he's not considered a favourite, nor does he possess the star power of others in the 12-team field.

But with the home crowd behind him, he realizes this is a chance to make a name for himself.

"To be skipping a team at the Brier at age 25 is an opportunity not a lot of people get," Fitzner-LeBlanc said.

"I'm certainly not going to let that slip through my fingers and say, 'I'm just happy to be here, I'm a young guy, it's OK.' We're taking this seriously and I hope we can surprise some people."

Fitzner-LeBlanc's Mayflower rink, featuring third Stuart MacLean, second Kent Smith and lead Philip Crowell, completed its ascent to the top of the provincial men's curling circuit in early February when it captured the Molson Tankard on home ice.

Fitzner-LeBlanc does have experience to lean on

Champions

- Nova Scotia champions at the Brier:
- 2004
Mark Dacey, Halifax
- 1951
Don Oyler, Kentville
- 1927
Murray MacNeill, Halifax

with MacLean by his side. The 49-year-old went to two Briers with Thomas Hakansson in 1985 and 1988 and has helped prepare his younger teammates for the surprises and pressure they will face.

"It's nice to have someone who's done this before," Fitzner-LeBlanc said. "At the same time, we know there will still be

surprises and we know we can't panic when we get surprised."

Fitzner-LeBlanc, who said he is already getting recognized on the streets by local fans, was 18 the last time the Brier was at the Metro Centre in 2003. His most prominent memory is the support fellow Mayflower skip Mark Dacey received en route to a near win over Alberta's Randy Ferby in the final.

"That's what I'm looking forward to the most," he said. "There are a lot of things you could say are shortcomings for us, being our first time and all, but if there's a little bit of an edge there, to have the fans pump you up, we'll certainly take that."

Brier Rosters

• Rosters for the 2010 Tim Hortons Brier — the Canadian men's curling championship — which begins Saturday at the Metro Centre.

ALBERTA

- Skip: KEVIN KOE
- Third: Blake MacDonald
- Second: Carter Rycroft
- Lead: Nolan Thiessen
- Alternate: Jamie King

BRITISH COLUMBIA

- Skip: JEFF RICHARD
- Third: Tom Shypitka
- Second: Tyler Orme
- Lead: Chris Anderson
- Alternate: Kevin MacKenzie

MANITOBA

- Skip: JEFF STOUGHTON
- Third: Kevin Park
- Second: Rob Fowler
- Lead: Steve Gould
- Alternate: Randy Dutiaume

NEW BRUNSWICK

- Skip: JAMES GRATTON
- Third: Steven Howard
- Second: Jason Vaughan
- Lead: Peter Case
- Alternate: Bobby Vaughan

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

- Skip: BRAD GUSHUE
- Third: Mark Nichols
- Second: Ryan Fry
- Lead: Jamie Korab
- Alternate: Glen Goss



NORTHERN ONTARIO

- Skip: BRAD JACOBS
- Third: E.J. Harnden
- Second: Randy Harnden
- Lead: Caleb Flaxley



Glenn Howard

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

- Skip: ROD MacDONALD
- Third: Kevin Champion
- Second: Mark O'Rourke
- Lead: Andrew Robinson
- Alternate: Peter MacDonald

QUEBEC

- Skip: SERGE REID
- Third: Francois Gionest
- Second: Simon Collin
- Lead: Steeve Villeneuve
- Alternate: Pierre Charette

SASKATCHEWAN

- Skip: DARRELL MCKEE
- Third: Bruce Korte
- Second: Roger Korte
- Lead: Rob Markowsky
- Alternate: Jason Jacobson

BRIER SCHEDULE

SATURDAY
FIRST DRAW, 3 P.M.
British Columbia vs. Manitoba; Ontario vs. Yukon/Northwest Territories; New Brunswick vs. Saskatchewan; New Brunswick vs. Yukon/Northwest Territories; Newfoundland & Labrador vs. Quebec; Quebec vs. Yukon/Northwest Territories; Saskatchewan vs. New Brunswick.

SECOND DRAW, 7:30 P.M.
Yukon/Northwest Territories vs. New Brunswick; Quebec vs. Ontario; Prince Edward Island vs. Saskatchewan; Northern Ontario vs. Manitoba.

SUNDAY
THIRD DRAW, 10:30 A.M.

Ontario vs. Northern Ontario; Manitoba vs. Prince Edward Island; Quebec vs. Yukon/Northwest Territories; Saskatchewan vs. New Brunswick.

MONDAY

FOURTH DRAW, 3 P.M.
NOVA SCOTIA vs. Quebec; Newfoundland & Labrador vs. Saskatchewan; British Columbia vs. Ontario; Prince Edward Island vs. Alberta.

FIFTH DRAW, 7:30 P.M.

Newfoundland & Labrador vs. Alberta; Northern Ontario vs. Yukon/Northwest Territories; New Brunswick vs. Manitoba; NOVA SCOTIA vs. British Columbia.

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16 sports

Jordan Staal scored a power-play goal 3:42 into overtime on Pittsburgh's 55th shot at Henrik Lundqvist, and the Penguins outlasted the New York Rangers 5-4 on Thursday night in New York. Sidney Crosby was met with derisive chants, calls of "U-S-A! U-S-A!" and boos throughout. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

EDITOR: DON.MCHOUILL@METRONEWS.CA

Mooseheads lose Gelinas for season

HOCKEY The Halifax Mooseheads will be without rookie left-winger Carl Gelinas for the rest of the QMJHL season.

Gelinas, who is fourth in team scoring with 14 goals among 30 points in 56 games and was named the team's rookie of the year, has a sprained and hasn't played Feb. 13.

The Mooseheads visit the Bathurst Titan on Friday at 7:30 p.m. and the Saint John Sea Dogs on Sunday 4 p.m.

Left-winger Dylan McGuigan (concussion) could also be out of the lineup, while defenceman Steve Gillard, out with strep throat and a shoulder injury, returned to full-contact practice on Thursday and could be ready to play on Friday.

METRO HALIFAX

SCOREBOARD

NHL

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Boston 3 Toronto 2 (SO)
Carolina 4 Ottawa 1
Atlanta 6 NY Islanders 3
Nashville 4 Los Angeles 2
Pittsburgh 5 NY Rangers 4 (OT)
St. Louis 6 Dallas 1
Washington 5 Tampa Bay 4
Colorado 3 Phoenix
Montreal at San Jose

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Philadelphia at Buffalo, 8:30 p.m.
Nashville at Detroit, 8:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Chicago, 9:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Calgary, 10 p.m.
Minnesota at Edmonton, 10 p.m.

NBA

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Memphis 105 Chicago 96
Miami 114 L.A. Lakers 111 (OT)
Utah at Phoenix

FRIDAY'S GAMES
L.A. Lakers at Charlotte, 8 p.m.
Milwaukee at Washington, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Cleveland, 8 p.m.
New York at Toronto, 8 p.m.
Boston at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Atlanta, 8:30 p.m.
Orlando at New Jersey, 9:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.
Indiana at Denver, 10 p.m.
New Orleans at San Antonio, 10:30 p.m.
Oklahoma City at L.A. Clippers, 11:30 p.m.

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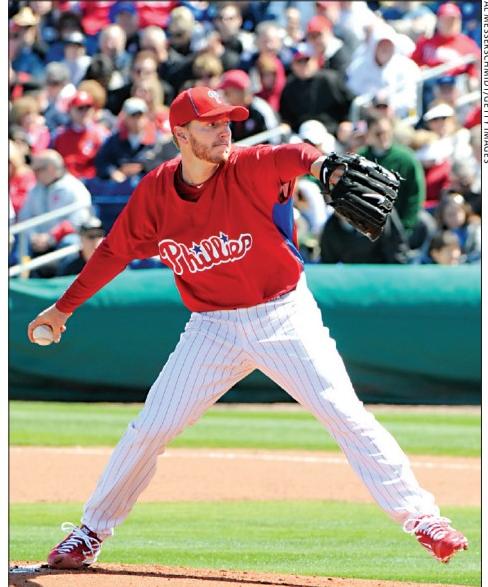
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NEXT COURSE DATES:
• March 10 - March 23 • March 24 - April 6 •
• Every 2 weeks thereafter •

Terry to have surgery

Dallas Mavericks guard Jason Terry is scheduled to have surgery Friday after taking an elbow to the face during a game. The team said a timetable for Terry's return would be determined after the surgery. Terry's left eye was nearly swollen shut when he left the Dallas locker room after Wednesday night's 112-109 victory over Minnesota.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



AL MESSICK/SHUTTERSTOCK/GETTY IMAGES

Salary cap bites dust

NFL heads into uncharted territory on Friday

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America is entering territory even more uncharted than the end zone was for the St. Louis Rams last season.

"The situation we're walking into is certainly unknown for everyone," Tampa Bay Buccaneers general manager Mark Dominik says.

"So no one can really look at the crystal ball and say here's what people are going to spend and here's what people aren't going to spend. It's all pure speculation."

Marc Ganis, president of Chicago-based consulting company Sports Corp. Ltd., thinks teams will be

tightfisted.

"That's one of the possibilities in the uncapped season, will some teams be spending far below the current floor, especially teams that perform poorly on the field?" says Ganis. "Teams will have the option of spending the amount on their team that they think it is worth. A 4-12 team does not have the calibre players a consis-

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tently 12-4 team has.

"I expect the small and midsize market clubs are going to start to pay in this uncapped year based on what they can afford."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pitcher Roy Halladay of the Philadelphia Phillies starts against the New York Yankees on Thursday in Clearwater, Fla.

Halladay off to strong start, as Phillies defeat Yankees

BASEBALL If first impressions are important to baseball fans in Philadelphia, new Phillies pitcher Roy Halladay aced his entry exam.

Halladay's spring debut with the Philadelphia Phillies did nothing to kill the buzz that engulfed the City of Brotherly love when the team dealt for the former Cy Young Award winner three months ago.

Halladay got the Grapefruit League schedule under way with two near-perfect innings in the Phillies' 3-2 win over the New York Yankees on Thursday.

The 32-year-old Halladay threw a pair of hitless innings while striking out

three. Halladay was at the crux of a blockbuster four-team set of trades in December between the Phillies, Toronto Blue Jays, Seattle Mariners and Oakland Athletics.

"I was excited for it," said Halladay, who spent his first 12 seasons with the Toronto Blue Jays. "You anticipate it, but once you get into the game, the game is always the same. Your approach is the same. I looked forward to it, especially early on. It's as much fun for me as it is for everyone else."

Halladay allowed just one base runner in his first outing with the Phillies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Xavier X-Men on Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Forum. The AUS announced on Thursday the best-of-five series will follow a 1-1-1-1-1 format, with the Huskies visiting the X-Men in Antigonish on Tuesday at 7 p.m. The series won't resume until the following Monday, March 15, at 7 p.m. at the Forum. The remaining games will be played on March 17 and 19, if necessary.

CIS VOLLEYBALL The Saint Mary's Huskies will open the Atlantic University Sport men's hocky final against the St. Francis

national champion UBC Thunderbirds when they open the Canadian Interuniversity Sport women's volleyball championship on Friday at 4 p.m. in Edmonton. The Huskies, who won their fourth Atlantic title in seven years two weeks ago at The Tower, are up against the country's top-ranked. The T-Birds are enjoying a 22-0 season. An Atlantic team hasn't won a national title since the Dalhousie Tigers pulled it off in 1981-82.

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18 sports

Receiver Laveranues Coles is a free agent again after one disappointing season with the Cincinnati Bengals, who had hoped to make him a pillar of their passing game. The Bengals released the 32-year-old receiver on Thursday, exactly one year after he signed a four-year deal to replace T.J. Houshamzadeh. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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"The money needs to come in larger part from businesses, and if this can happen the impact will be profound," said six-time Olympic medalist Clara Hughes. "To get anywhere near the realistic amount of money it takes, the source cannot be the government alone."

Chris Rudge, CEO of the Canadian Olympic Committee, agrees.

"This is a big and welcome step in the right direction," he said. "While most other countries are continuing to build, at least maintaining the program at its initial funding level is very important in this transitional time."

Bobsled pilot Lyndon Rush captured the first Canadian medal in 46 years in the four-man event. "I am a direct result of Own the Podium," said the native of Humboldt, Sask. "When they got the money they recruited me. I worked hard and the payback is this bronze medal. I think it was worth it."

As Rush was speaking he cradled the medal that hung around his neck like a national treasure.

Maybe it is, just as the other 25 medals won at the home Olympics are. So, too, are the record 14 gold medals, which allowed O Canada to be the most frequently played anthem at the Games.

But all that patriotism comes at a price and it hinges on great performance.

Finally, it seems, Canadians are willing to pay.

Gemini Award winner and author Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. A 20-year CBC Sports veteran, he has covered a variety of professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

Sports in brief

CFL Anthony Galea, who is accused of selling an unapproved drug, has stepped down as the team doctor of the Toronto Argonauts. The CFL club said Thursday that Galea voluntarily resigned last month.

NFL The agent for Darren Sproles says the running back is staying with the San Diego Chargers. Gary Wishard says the Chargers notified him Thursday that they have decided to tender the restricted free agent a contract, which will be worth approximately \$7.3 million US.

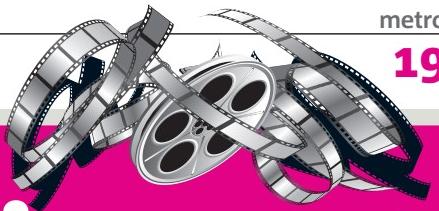
NBA The same day the Philadelphia 76ers announced that guard Allen Iverson would not return for the rest of the season, his wife filed for divorce in Atlanta.

NBA Brett Favre says he still hasn't decided whether he'll play again next season. Appearing on NBC's The Tonight Show Thursday, the Minnesota Vikings quarterback told Jay Leno he's not going to say anything anytime soon and that he just plans to sit back and enjoy the off-season for now.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Visit MetroneWS.ca/movies to get showtimes, read reviews and watch trailers.

19



Movies & Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Battlefield Oscar

Pg 20



Alec Baldwin, left, and Steve Martin will be officiating the Avatar and The Hurt Locker brawl at the Oscars; our writers weigh in as well.

Movies

Pg 22



Alice is the bizarre movie Burton was born to direct.

Music

Pg 27



Little Boots trying for her big break in North America.

Television

Pg 30



Hanks brings another band of brothers to the small screen.

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 A promotional poster for the movie "Cop Out". It features two main characters: Bruce Willis on the left, wearing a police uniform and holding a badge, and Tracy Morgan on the right, holding a handgun. The title "COP OUT" is prominently displayed in large, stylized letters across the center. The poster also includes the tagline "CANADA'S #1 COMEDY!" and the names "BRUCE WILLIS" and "TRACY MORGAN". At the bottom, it says "NOW PLAYING" and provides a website "www.copoutmovie.com" and a check-in location "Check Theatre Directory or www.copoutmovie.ca for Locations and Showtimes". There are also ratings and production information at the bottom.

20 movies&entertainment

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA



***** A CLASSIC; ***** EXCELLENT; *** GOOD; ** FAIR; * POOR

James Cameron's Avatar and Kathryn Bigelow's The Hurt Locker are clear frontrunners in the Best Picture and Best Director categories at the Oscars.

Faceoff night at Oscars

Metro critics go to battle over who will win Academy race



Richard Crouse

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS: Mo'Nique (Precious)

"I think this is as close to a 'gimme' as you are going to get this year."

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR: Christoph Waltz (Inglourious Basterds)

"Again, this is a category where the winner is rather obvious. I love how Christopher Plummer says 'I am happy to be nominated,' but Christoph Waltz takes this one."

BEST ACTRESS: Meryl Streep (Julie & Julia) or Sandra Bullock (The Blind Side)

"It's a flip of the coin for me. I would like to see Meryl Streep win because I think she took Julia Child and turned her into an actress."

al person rather than a caricature ... but Sandra Bullock has been making amazing speeches. She took a movie that was deeply average and turned it into something that was Oscar worthy."

BEST ACTOR: Jeff Bridges (Crazy Heart) "He is Hollywood royalty. He has put in an unbelievable performance that has thrown vanity out the window."

BEST DIRECTOR: Kathryn Bigelow (The Hurt Locker)

"This is a race between the first too: James Cameron and Kathryn Bigelow and I think Kathryn Bigelow is going to take this one."

BEST PICTURE: Avatar

"It has been living at the very centre of popular culture since it came out, and not only has it made billions of dollars but it has also changed the way Hollywood is doing business now."



Steve Gow

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS: Mo'Nique (Precious)

"She really is a fantastic character in this movie. Great villain; which Hollywood really loves."

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR: Christoph Waltz (Inglourious Basterds)

"The only chance that he won't get it is that maybe some of the voters out there are sort of thinking that everyone else is going to vote for him so they kind of pick a secondary person."

BEST ACTRESS: Meryl Streep (Julie & Julia) or Sandra Bullock (The Blind Side)

"This is a really interesting category. Some might vote for Meryl, some for Sandra. And up the middle you might see someone like

On the web

- Want more of Crouse vs. Gow? Watch a video of Metro film critics making their Oscar picks at metronews.ca/movies.

Carey Mulligan."

BEST ACTOR: Jeff Bridges (Crazy Heart)

"(The Academy) loves these kinds of roles where you see the star acting outside their element and a little grungy."

BEST DIRECTOR: Katherine Bigelow (The Hurt Locker)

"I think voters really like that there is that ex-husband factor as well in James Cameron (he and Bigelow were married) ... I think they really want to see her sort of beat him."

BEST PICTURE: Avatar

"Maybe it is my heart here, but I kind of hope The Hurt Locker wins."

Hollywood Votes Academy Awards

What's buzzing at the Oscars

RED CARPET, GREEN DRESS: Most women attending the Academy Awards choose their dress weeks in advance and keep it a secret until the big day. James Cameron's wife, Suzy Amis Cameron, started looking for her dress more than a year ago and she showed it off on a mannequin at a party Wednesday night.

Suzy Cameron held an eco-dress design contest to raise funds for Muse Elementary, the eco-friendly school she founded in Los Angeles. She unveiled the winning dress and its designer, 21-year-old Michigan State senior Jillian Granz, at environmental organization Global Green USA's seventh annual pre-Oscar party.

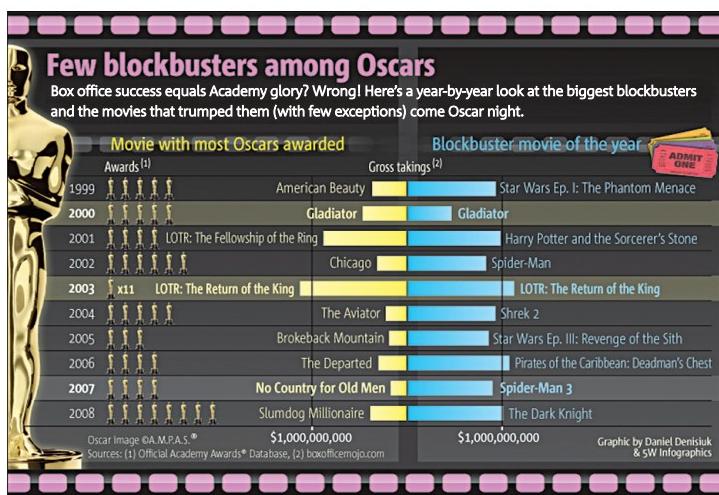
The long, flowing gown is made almost entirely from sustainable materials. It's one shouldered, with a big slit up the side, and it's Avatar blue.

"Suzy likes blue," said James Cameron, an Oscar nominee for best director and best picture for Avatar, which features a blue humanoid species living on a faraway moon called Pandora.

MIRRORS EVERYWHERE: Instead of returning to their seats after presenting or accepting an Academy Award, Oscar's stars might opt to relax in the Architectural Digest green room backstage at the Kodak Theatre, where they can have a drink, watch the show on a flat-screen TV and check their reflection in multiple mirrors.

Interior designer Roger Thomas, who is responsible for the look of the Wynn hotels, says Oscar's green room was inspired by Hollywood's golden age. Black lacquer furniture is trimmed in shades of cream and white, flanked by end tables topped with orchid plants and oversized crystals. An outdoor garden space connected to the green room provides celebrity smokers with a private, covered place to light up. The floor inside is splattered with paint, like one might find in the art department on a studio lot. And there are mirrors everywhere.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



... and now the Razzies

THE WORST While Hollywood's elite will be celebrating the best of 2009 Sunday evening, the night before will see a celebration of a different nature when the 30th annual Golden Razzies Awards are announced a few miles further down Hollywood Boulevard.

The Razzies, the Golden Raspberry Award Foundation's annual salute to the very worst in film, has acted as a kind of snarky younger sibling to the Oscars since it started humbly in 1980, growing into what E! News has called "the foremost authority on all

things that suck on the big screen." The two films leading this year's pack, with seven nominations each, are Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen and Land of the Lost.

Worst Actress nominee Sandra Bullock (for "All About Steve") could make history by being the first actress to win a Razzie one day and an Oscar the next, since she's also up for Best Actress at the Academy Awards for "The Blind Side." Surprisingly, Bullock has said she'll be there. "I'm showing up if I win," she told Entertainment Weekly.

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At a glance

Alice In Wonderland
Brooklyn's Finest

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

An Englishman in New York

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Robert Pattinson has been playing Americans so often that he's forgotten how to talk like a Brit.

In his latest, *Remember Me*, the Twilight heartthrob stars as a soulful young New Yorker attending NYU, but he insists he didn't need any help sounding like a native. "I've never had a dialect coach or anything," Pattinson says. "Ironically, I've only had a dialect coach for this film I'm doing now, which I'm doing now in an English accent. I guess I've forgotten how to do an English accent."

Part of what attracted Pattinson to *Remember Me* — a mix of love story and family drama in which two college students (Pattinson and Lost star Emilie de Ravin) fall for each other — was that it didn't follow a traditional love story mould.

"The way the plot was structured, it didn't fit into any kind of normal category."

**Remember
Me opens
next
Friday**

Robert Pattinson and Emilie de Ravin star in *Remember Me*.

ry. It didn't seem very formulaic," Pattinson says. "When you meet someone who you feel whatever for, it doesn't necessarily mean that that's a finish line — like, 'Oh, you'll be all right now afterward.' People now, everyone does all of these things because they think they should be happy like all the time. Doing therapy, and

Movie feature

taking antidepressants and all of these things."

While he didn't struggle with the accent, the actor admits filming on location in New York City wasn't easy, especially with the constant attention from diehard Twilight fans and paparazzi. "The first two weeks were kind of crazy," he remembers. "It was annoying people as well, that all of these crowds came and disrupted people's days."

Pattinson has tried to harness his feelings about the constant attention to use for his performance.

"I was trying to figure out a way to use the sort of rage that was built up, but you couldn't really use it for that character," he says. "If the same thing had happened

during this movie that I'm doing now, it would have been perfect and I could have gone around hitting

On the web

- For trailers, photos, screen times, visit metronews.ca/movies

paparazzi and it would have been great because I would have been staying in character."

Consider that a warning to any photographers hanging around the set of *Bel Ami*, based on the French novel by Guy de Maupassant. Pattinson says he was keen on taking on the new project because it was a departure from the vampire character that's made him an international star.

"I thought there was a kind of irony in *Bel Ami*, because a lot of the women are attracted to this character and then he kind of screws them over and steals their money and stuff," Pattinson says.

Izzard got cure for awards season

VIEWPOINT Eddie Izzard has a cure for those awards-season blues amid the seemingly endless string of ceremonies leading up to the Academy Awards.

Izzard — the host of one of the season's final shows, Friday's Spirit Awards honouring independent film — suggests that Hollywood simply add more ceremonies.

The logic is akin to making children caught smoking light up an entire pack of cigarettes one after another, so they'll lose their taste for tobacco.

"There's too many of these things. Either too many or not enough, I think. Maybe another 100. I think they should have compulsory ones, compulsory awards that everyone has to go to."

"They'll be going, 'Oh, another awards ceremony,' and people are really ticked off when they win another one," British comic Izzard said.

If that does not cure Hollywood's awards addiction, Izzard has a more extreme idea.

"I like the idea that people who win awards, they get killed," Izzard said. "And then people would be so good at not winning."

Izzard said he had never seen the Spirit Awards, whose 25th anniversary show airs live on IFC from downtown Los Angeles.

Nominated for best feature film at the Spirit Awards are the Harlem drama *Precious*: Based on the Novel *Push* by Sapphire, the romance *(50) Days of Summer*, the Leo Tolstoy tale *The Last Station* and the immigrant stories *Amreeka* and *Sin Nombre*.

Since Izzard is clearly not a fan of awards show, why is he hosting this one?

"Because it's independent. It's about the independence, which is what America was about, what 1776 was about," said Izzard.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS

BEST ACTOR - JEFF BRIDGES
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS - MAGGIE GYLLENHAL
BEST ORIGINAL SONG - "THE WEARY KIND"

THE PERFORMANCE OF A LIFETIME — WINNER

BEST ACTOR - JEFF BRIDGES

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Joe Morgenstern, *THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*

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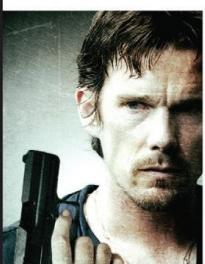
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Patrick Harris turns blue

Neil Patrick Harris has signed up for *The Smurfs* – the new, CG/live-action blend take on the little blue people. According to Deadline Hollywood, he's playing a human character in the movie. [EMPIREONLINE.COM](#)

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Plenty of eye-candy

Alice In Wonderland

Director: Tim Burton**Stars:** Johnny Depp,

Mia Wasikowska

Classification: PG**Rating:** **PHIL BROWN**
for Metro Canada

Tim Burton was born to adapt the surrealist fantasy *Alice In Wonderland*. The visually inspired filmmaker is known for the twisted imagination and affection for the bizarre needed to translate Lewis Carroll's classic universe to the screen.

From a technical standpoint, his film is a triumph. The eye-candy will captivate anyone watching with

those new-fangled 3-D glasses.

However, there's little going on to stimulate audiences beyond the visual flourishes. It's a shame because Burton is capable of more than just surface style and the source material offers plenty to explore. But when the package is this pretty, a lack of depth is forgivable.

Surprisingly this is not a straight adaptation, but a sequel to Carroll's original stories. The movie stars Mia Wasikowska as an older Alice verging on adulthood. Frustrated by the suffocating social codes of Victorian society, Alice escapes to Wonderland with no memory of her previous adventures.



Helen Bonham Carter plays the Red Queen in Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland*.

She is reintroduced to all of her old friends and must embark on a quest to overthrow the Red Queen. It all amounts to a message about favouring individuality over succumbing to the expectations of others, which is sweet but unnecessary. The world of the film is so exquisitely realized that it's disappointing

to find such a conventional story at the centre.

Still, no one is going to see this movie for complex storytelling and it delivers on plenty of other levels. A cast of comedians and character actors like Alan Rickman and Stephen Fry play all the recognizable Wonderland characters and clearly had a blast with

their roles.

Burton regulars Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter take on the Mad Hatter and Red Queen respectively and unsurprisingly steal all or their scenes (even if Depp's role was unnecessarily expanded to accommodate his fame).

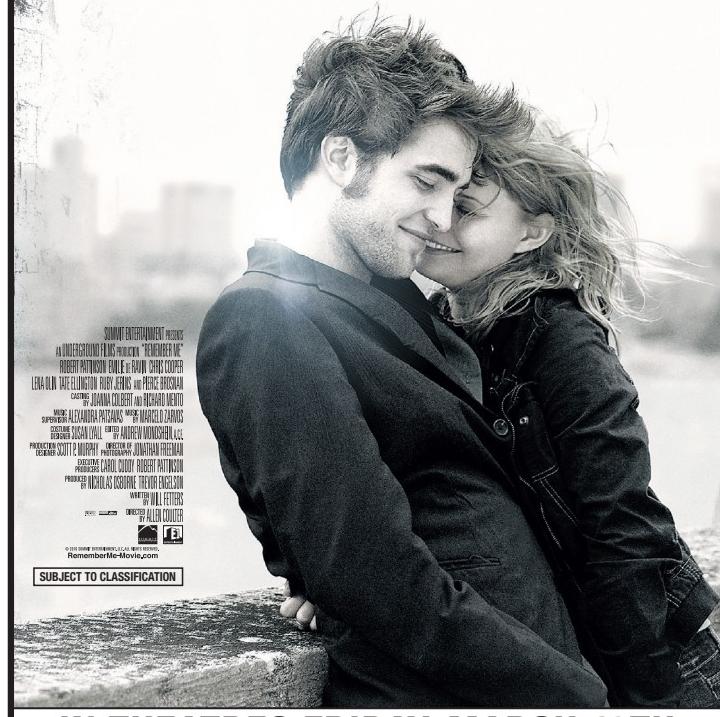
It's easy to get lost in the

stunning visuals and eccentric performances, but hopefully Tim Burton will rediscover his interest in characterization and storytelling soon. As impressive as this film is, he's capable of more.

• For a trailer of *Alice In Wonderland*, screen times and photos, visit [metronews.ca/movies](#)

ROBERT PATTINSON EMILIE DE RAVIN CHRIS COOPER LENA OLIN PIERCE BROSNAN
Remember Me

LIVE IN THE MOMENTS



IN THEATRES FRIDAY, MARCH 12TH

Not their Finest moments

Brooklyn's Finest

Director: Antoine Fuqua**Stars:** Ethan Hawke,

Don Cheadle, Richard Gere

Classification: STC**Rating:** **PHIL BROWN**
for Metro Canada

Ethan Hawke plays a cop in *Brooklyn's Finest*.

REVIEW The best thing that can be said about *Brooklyn's Finest* is that it is bargain priced. Like a Costco DVD combo pack, viewers are treated to three derivative police stories for the price of one. Unfortunately, if you enjoy realistic and artfully crafted crime films, you'll have to look elsewhere.

This movie plays like three sub-par episodes of *NYPD Blue* combined into an exhausting 140 minutes. Much of the acting is excellent and almost makes some of the characters believable. But for the most part, this is a waste of talent destined to stock clearance sale DVD bins.

Antoine Fuqua (*Training Day*) directs *Brooklyn's Finest* as if it is an earnest drama, emphasizing the absurdity of the project. Nothing is harder to buy than clichés played as truth and the three intertwined plots are marred with this issue.

Ethan Hawke plays a poor police officer with an

ever-expanding family who starts stealing confiscated drug money to buy a new house.

Don Cheadle plays an undercover officer asked to send a longtime friend to prison. And finally, Richard Gere plays as disenchanted retiring cop assigned to train a fresh faced new recruit. The concepts are all familiar and they play out in obvious ways.

It has to be said that both Ethan Hawke and Don Cheadle manage to rise above the material and give solid performances that almost make their sections work.

But "almost" is the key word and sadly most of their good work goes to waste.

Richard Gere on the other hand is placid throughout. His character is supposed to be embarrassed by his profession and quietly goes about his work waiting for it all to be over.

There's a sense that the actor feels that way about the movie itself and is too frustrated by the proceedings to put in any effort.

If that's not actually the case, then he at least should have felt that way along with everyone else involved.

24 movies&entertainment

Reel Time

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

McAdams signs on for Allen film

Rachel McAdams is set to engage in a storied Hollywood tradition — appearing in a Woody Allen film. The Canadian actress has signed on to co-star in the director's next project, according to Hollywood Reporter. [IMDB.COM](#)

InFocus



Richard Crouse

metronews.ca/infocus

Will the real Alice Kingsley please stand up? Is she the 19 year old rebel played by Mia Wasikowska in this weekend's 3-D *Alice in Wonderland*

land directed by Tim Burton? Or the insane character of America McGee's video game Alice? Or the martial arts instructor of a recent Syfy channel adaptation?

In fact, she's all those people and more.

Originally written in 1865 by Lewis Carroll, the little girl who found a world of wonder down the rabbit hole, has become one of the more enduring and malleable characters of literature and film.

"The books are a kind of

Rorschach test, a screen onto which people project their own ideas," says The Mystery of Lewis Carroll author Jenny Woolf.

Alice first got the big screen treatment in 1903 in a 12 minute silent version featuring rudimentary special effects of the hero changing sizes. Played by Mabel Clark, (who was also employed on the set as a "help-out girl," making costumes and running errands), the look of this traditional retelling closely resembles the book's original illustrations.

Out of print for many years, it's now available as a DVD extra on the recent reissue of the 1966 *Alice in Wonderland* starring Peter Sellers.

The Sellers version, a made-for-BBC television movie, is as mad as a hatter. Director Jonathan Miller sought to boil the production down to the essentials, to dispense with the "japing and game play" of earlier versions.

To that end none of the strange creatures Alice meets along the way are played by actors in animatronics. Alice Liddell, the girl who inspired the Lewis Carroll book,

This approach could have fallen flat, but when you

have actors like John Gielgud and Peter Cook accentuating the wonderful dialogue rather than the flashy production design, it works.

Add a trippy soundtrack by Ravi Shankar and some veiled drug references and you get a film that could only have been made at the height of the Swinging

"Alice is a picture which represents a revolution in cinema history!"

Alice Liddell, the girl

who inspired the

Lewis Carroll book,

upon seeing the 1933

Paramount ver-

sion.

"I am de-

lighted with

the film and

am now con-

vinced that

only through

the medium

of the talking picture art

could this delicious fantasy

be faithfully interpreted,"

she told the New York

Times.

"Alice is a picture which

represents a revolution in

cinema history!"

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.

"Crackie is a small masterpiece of Canadian realism"

John Doyle - The Globe and Mail

CRACKIE

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Jessica O'Neil - National Post

"Meghan Greeley shines in Crackie"

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Jackman case in civil rights movie

Precious director Lee Daniels, talking to USA Today about his Oscar week activities, let slip that he's cast Hugh Jackman in his next project, U.S. civil rights movie Selma. [EMPIREONLINE.COM](#)

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Ferrera set for life after Betty

TV star sad to see show go, but is busy with film work

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

It's time to say so long to *Ugly Betty* as America Ferrera returns to the big screen this month with *Our Family Wedding*, a culture-clash comedy about a Mexican-American law student (Ferrera) who brings her African-American fiancé (Lance Gross) home to meet her caught-of-guard family and announce their engagement. It's the actress' first film since the announcement that her four-year-old ABC comedy won't be returning in the fall.

"I love this character. I've grown so close to her in playing her," Ferrera says, reflecting on the unfashionable fashion editor that earned her a Golden Globe and an Emmy. "It's going to be hard to say goodbye, but I'm so proud of what we've done. ... I think that we're going to get a chance to really wrap it up and give the characters their due justice."

"I'm just grateful that they just didn't just pull the plug without finishing the story lines."

She's keeping busy beyond *Betty*, of course, with projects like *Our Family Wedding*, which gave her a chance to re-team with veteran Latina actress Lupe Ontiveros, who appeared in Ferrera's breakthrough debut, *Real Women Have Curves*. It was an opportunity the younger actress relished.

"I can't even explain how much I owe to her. She played a hundred maids so I could come in and take a part like *Betty*," Ferrera says. "She's such an incredible talent, and so incredibly underused,

"It's going to be hard to say goodbye, but I'm so proud of what we've done. ... I think that we're going to get a chance to really wrap it up and give the characters their due justice."

America Ferrera, on the end of *Ugly Betty*

and I think that everyone who has seen her work knows that she's a star and she should've been at the level of Meryl Streep."

Later this spring, Ferrera will be heard if not seen in the upcoming *How to Train Your Dragon*, voicing a fierce dragon-slayer — something of a departure from *Betty Suarez*. And that's just what Ferrera was looking for.

"She is tall and blonde and has blue eyes and has a kick-ass body," Ferrera says of her character, Astrid. And Ferrera admits she didn't think she was a likely choice for an animated feature.

"I don't have like a Disney princess voice, obviously," she says. "I've always had a raspier voice since I was younger."

With three movies out this year and a TV show winding down, the actress and producer isn't too concerned with filling up her dance card. But would she entertain the idea of doing another series anytime soon?

"I would entertain sleeping for three months," she says with a laugh. "And then taking a long, deep breath and seeing what happens organically and naturally after that."

Our Family Wedding comes out next Friday



America Ferrera and Lance Gross star as a newly engaged couple in *Our Family Wedding*.

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Amazon.ca bestselling albums

1. I Believe (Official CTV Olympic Song Enhanced), Nikki Yanofsky, right; 2. Recollection, K.D. Lang;
3. American VI: Ain't No Grave, Johnny Cash; 4. Soldier Of Love, Sade. METRO NEWS SERVICES

**movies&entertainment** **27****Music**

Little Boots, big shoes

Dance pop songstress follows in Lady Gaga's footsteps

CAM LINDSAY
for Metro Canada

North America hasn't exactly been friendly to the dance pop genre in the last decade unless there has been a fresh-faced teen front and centre to exploit. Last year, Lady Gaga became the exception to the rule, and now there's plenty of room on the charts for her to share.

Trying to crack this continent's fickle market has sent many defeated would-be pop stars back to Europe, a place where slick, synthesized pop has always been welcomed with open arms.

But if you ask Victoria Hesketh, a.k.a. Little Boots, what she thinks of her chances making it in America, she seems unfazed by the looming challenge.

"I'm not sure I will fit in with North American music," she admits. "But I think that with Gaga and Katy Perry breaking through it does seem that maybe America is getting more into pop so maybe it will work for me."

If Little Boots sounds confident that's because she knows the tide is turning. With Gaga's aforementioned success still growing and the rise of burgeoning stars like La Roux and Lights, the moment is now for her to shine.

On her debut album, *Hands*, Little Boots has found the perfect amalgam of dance pop's colourful history, touching on disco, '80s synth-pop and artists like Kylie Minogue and Goldfrapp, while building



On her debut album, *Hands*, Little Boots has found the perfect amalgam of dance pop's colourful history, touching on disco and '80s synth-pop while building an identity of her own.

"I'm not into being an indie artist. I really just like pop music and see myself as more of a pop songwriter."

Little Boots

an identity of her own with the help of producers like Hot Chip's Joe Goddard and Gaga's guru RedOne.

Hesketh sees the recent wave of female solo artists playing synths to be both harmful and helpful to her career.

"It's kind of annoying because I think all of the girls the press puts together are very different and that's what's exciting about it," she says. "They can run all

of these stories about girls in nice frocks playing keyboards. But I understand why they do it and I'm sure we've all gotten a lot more attention because of it."

Having previously fronted an indie band called Dead Disco and found buzz for Little Boots through indie-favouring blogs, Hesketh has already tasted pop stardom in the U.K. She's now hungry for more. "I think being a solo

artist really suits me and I never really cared about signing with an indie label or anything," she says. "I'm not into being an indie artist. I really just like pop music and see myself as more of a pop songwriter. On the album, I just really wrote what I felt was right to me."

Shakira honoured for work helping children

Shakira has received a medal from the UN labour agency for her work to help impoverished children.

The 33-year-old Colombian pop star has worked as a UNICEF goodwill ambassador. Her Barefoot foundation provides nutrition to more than 6,000 children in Colombia, and she is member of the ALAS foundation that advocates

for children across Latin America.

At a small ceremony Wednesday in Geneva, U.S. labour chief Juan Somavia called Shakira a "true ambassador for children and young people, for quality education and social justice."

Shakira said in a statement yesterday that social, economic and environmental policies must focus on children and their education. Shakira also spoke last month with U.S. President Barack Obama about U.S. policy on children.



THE
ASSOCIATED
PRESS

Entertainment in brief

CHARTS The following is HMV Canada's top 10 CDs based on national sales for the week ending March 6.

POP

1. I Believe - Nikki Yanofsky
2. Recollection - k.d. lang
3. Soldier of Love - Sade
4. The E.N.D. - The Black Eyed Peas
5. Need You Now - Lady Ante-

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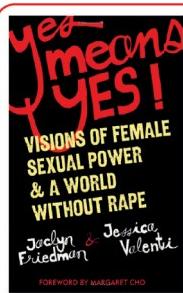
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Yes Means Yes!

How increasing female sexual autonomy can help stop rape.

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What if, instead of just the absence of "no," an enthusiastic "yes" was required as a standard for sexual consent?

What if, instead of treating sex like a commodity that women need to guard and men need to get, our culture viewed sex as a collaborative improv performance?

Jaclyn Friedman is a queer Jewish writer, performer, and activist, and the editor of *Yes Means Yes: Visions of Female Sexual Power and a World Without Rape* (Seal Press).



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Music

Defending Nickelback

Success of Canadian rockers helps support other acts

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

metronews.ca/soundcheck

So the pickle won. Good for the pickle. To recap: Last month, there was a Facebook campaign spearheaded by someone named Coral Anne to see if a lowly, anonymous dill could attract more Facebook friends than Nickelback. The "Can this pickle get

more fans than Nickelback (sic)?" crusade became something of an Internet sensation and blew past Nickelback's 1.4 million friends in rather short order. Everyone from Rolling Stone and MTV to U.K. newspapers picked up on the story.

Given the nature of Internet memes and the hate so many people seem to have for Nickelback, the pickle's victory wasn't much of a surprise. But before lost lovers of cured cucumbers get too smug over their victory, remember this: We will always need bands like Nickelback. And here's why.

First, Nickelback sells more records than just about any other rock band these days. The Dark Horse album has sold 420,000 copies in Canada and another 2.6 million in the U.S. Overall, they've sold 2.5 million records in Canada, 20 million in America and 30 million worldwide. They gross in the region of \$100 million in concert ticket sales each year. In other words, it's pretty clear that someone must like them.

Second, consider the economic spinoff. In U.S., Nickelback is signed to Roadrunner, a label that specializes mainly in heavy music — metal, especially.

If you're a fan of metal — Rob Zombie, CKY, Killswitch Engage, Airbourne, Trivium — you have Roadrunner to thank. Great groups with solid cred with metal fans, but none of them sell records in tremendous numbers. Therefore, their careers — their very existence — needs to be subsidized by the profits generated by the few big bands on Roadrunner that consistently turn a profit. This includes Slipknot, Megadeth — and Nickelback.

This means that metal fans should want Nickelback to sell as many records as possible so that



Nickelback's success has helped U.S.-based Roadrunner Records back numerous heavy metal acts.

Roadrunner can help keep bands like Cradle of Filth, Opeth and Hatebreed in business.

There's also an important Canadian connection here. Are you a fan of Billy Talent and Alexisonfire? Want them to do well in America? Then root for Nickelback because both bands are signed to Roadrunner in the U.S. Nickel-

back profits are being used to support both bands in their quest for continent-wide success.

This doesn't mean you have to like Nickelback. But they do play an important part in the whole ecosystem of metal.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

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— Montreal Gazette —

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Clipse don't take things personally

JASON RICHARDS
for Metro Canada

Don't expect The Clipse to battle Jay-Z anytime soon.

The Virginia-based rap duo isn't losing sleep over some lyrics on Jay-Z's last album that seem to be aimed their way.

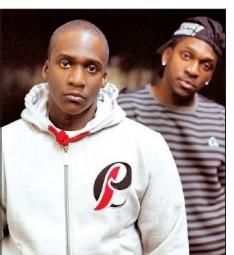
"I don't get my panties in a bunch," Malice of the group says, discussing the track Thank You off The Blueprint 3. The lines in question seem to slyly reference The Clipse and their latest album, Til the Casket Drops.

But again, they're not sweating it. "I'm a Jay-Z fan," Malice says. "So I'm not worrying about any of that speculation that's not positive. We've been on tour with Jay-Z. He was gracious enough to have us go overseas with him. I don't take anything personal from it."

And even if Mr. Knowles-Carter was really trying to diss The Clipse, Malice can empathize.

"Sometimes you just come up with a great line and it doesn't matter at whose expense," he says. "It's just a great line."

Malice and his brother Pusha T know a thing or two about those. The group rose to prominence for using sharp wordplay to detail the drug-hustling life over hard Neptunes beats. They're currently coming up with their own latest great lines for a few



Clipse is currently touring and working on a new album.

new projects, including their fourth album (they've already hit the studio with Raekwon, Young Jeezy and Travis Barker), a mixtape, even a book. Malice's upcoming autobiography, Wretched, Pitiful, Poor, Blind and Naked, will describe the impact his rap career has had on the lives of his friends and family.

"I think it's an eye opener for anybody who aspires to get into this game, how it takes a strong mind and focus," he says. "You need to really question your motives as to why you want to be in this industry."

As for The Clipse, satisfying fans is their main priority. That much is clear from the way Malice talks about their performances.

"We're very passionate about our shows," he says. "When I see that fan's face, you know, singing along with me, and his eyes closing and his hands in the air, I'm like 'yeah I remember I felt like that when I wrote it!'"

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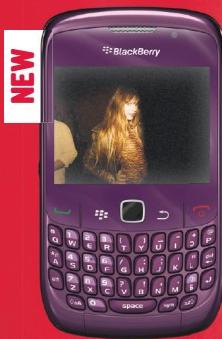
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Rob Lowe will join the cast of Parks and Recreation starting with the second-to-last episode of the season as a "powerful person entering our world from the outside," executive producer Michael Schur told Fancast. TVGUIDE.COM

Lowe's new role

Television

New miniseries bands together

Band of Brothers producers take on Second World War in The Pacific

The United States' National World War II Museum rolled out the red carpet this week for Tom Hanks and the stars of a new HBO miniseries set during that war.

Hanks is an executive producer of The Pacific, a 10-part miniseries that follows three U.S. Marines fighting in the Pacific Theater during the Second World War.

Hanks joined the miniseries' stars — James Badge Dale, Jon Seda and Joe Mazzello — for a screening of the first episode at the city's convention centre, followed by a reception at the New Orleans museum.

Hanks also teamed up with The Pacific executive produc-

ers Steven Spielberg and Gary Goetzman on HBO's Band of Brothers, a 2001 miniseries set in Europe during the Second World War.

The Pacific, which debuts on HBO on March 14, depicts some of the war's bloodiest battles, including Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Dale, Seda and Mazzello each play real-life men who fought in the Pacific campaign.

"There are three main characters that we follow, so therefore we got to be even more personal than we were in Band of Brothers," Hanks said while on the red carpet inside the convention centre.

"So in a weird way by focusing on less characters by number, we were



Tom Hanks, executive producer, talks to reporters at the red carpet premiere of the new HBO miniseries The Pacific in New Orleans, Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

able to expand the scope."

Before the 10-month shoot started in Australia, the cast endured a grueling 10-day "boot camp" under the direction of Dale Dye, an actor and military advisor whose screen credits include Saving Private Ryan.

They also met with relatives of the men they por-

trayed and veterans who fought in the battles portrayed in the miniseries.

"These are the guys we're doing it for," said Dale, who plays the late Robert Leckie.

"This is their story. These are the men who have been there."

Mazzello, who plays the late Eugene Sledge, said

Walters' last dance with Oscar

INTERVIEWS Barbara Walters says her last Oscars television special will be her best.

Walters will sit down with actresses Sandra Bullock and Mo'Nique, both nominated for Academy Awards. Walters said she believes both will win.

By bidding adieu, Walters, 80, is ending a 29-year-old tradition of talking to celebrities on Hollywood's biggest night. It wasn't until 1988, though, that she began interviewing nominees.

"For the first seven years we were not allowed to interview any of the nominees because the

(Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences) thought it would interfere with their Oscar special," Walters said.

That year she sat down with Glenn Close and Cher, who were contenders for Best Actress. Cher ended up taking the award for her role in Moonstruck.

Just because Walters is stopping her Oscars special doesn't mean she's done with TV.

"I am not retiring!" she insists. "I will still be doing the 10 most fascinating people, I will still be on The View, which I love."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**The Pacific
airs on HBO
March 14**

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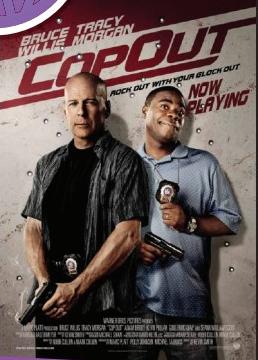
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What You Need

- 1 pkg. (8 squares) Baker's Semi-Sweet Chocolate
- 1 can (300 mL) sweetened condensed milk
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 10 Oreo Cookies, chopped

Make it

MICROWAVE chocolate and condensed milk in large microwaveable bowl on MEDIUM 2 to 3 min. or until chocolate is almost melted, stirring after each minute. Add vanilla; mix well. Stir in chopped cookies.



LINE 8-inch square pan with foil, with ends of foil extending over sides. Spread chocolate mixture into pan.

REFRIGERATE 2 hours or until firm. Use foil handles to lift fudge from pan before cutting into 1-inch squares.

THIS WEEK ON THE SHOW – COOKING WITH KIDS ➤ whatscookingtv.com

Television

Toronto cop inspires drama

In the new cop series *The Bridge*, debuting Friday on CTV and CBS, Aaron Douglas plays a tough police officer turned union head battling top brass and an "old boys' network" as he cleans up the force.

Though the storylines are inspired by the insights of outspoken former Toronto police union head Craig Bromell, the events and characters are purely fictional.

"My life with the union

is very well documented — it's in the public, there's no way around it — so I wanted ... a fictional side to this primarily because it's an international story," Bromell, an executive producer and adviser on the show, said in a recent interview.

"That's what I was trying to get out more than anything is: 'Yeah, I've lived a

certain situation, I was quite prominent in law enforcement in this country, but these stories could happen anywhere."

Bromell became president of the Toronto Police Association in 1997 at age 37, after a lengthy career on the force. He left his post in 2002 and went

on to do a radio show in
the city.

The series title is inspired by a bridge that separates two Toronto neighbourhoods — one wealthy and one low-income — that Bromell's unit patrolled when he was an officer.

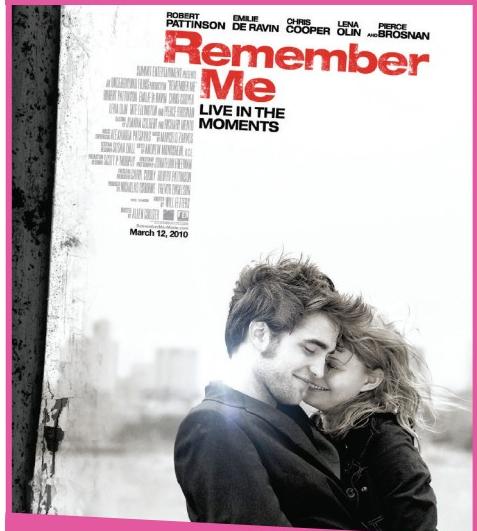
Aaron Douglas, a Vancouver native, signed on as the lead, Frank Leo, right after the conclusion of his last series, the heralded sci-fi drama *Battlestar Galactica*.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Saturday				7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
prime time 3/6/10	HA	H	D	B	News Center	World News	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	20/20 (HDTV)	Oprah Winfrey Oscar Special	Castle	
	31	31	31	ABC	The Road to Avonlea	American Dream	Marion Bridge *** (2002, Drama) (DVS)		Atlantis			
	7	7	7	ASN	Hockey Night	NHL Hockey	Toronto Maple Leafs at Ottawa Senators, (HDTV) (Live)	NHK Hockey				
	11	11	11	CBC	National	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	NCIS Citywide blackout.		CSI: Miami (HDTV)	48 Hours.	
	32	32	32	CBS	WBZ News (N)	Evening News	Brandy Ledford.		Love-Death	G-Spot	News Final (N)	
	6	6	6	CJHL	renegade	Jane Show	A Woman's Page (2008, Suspense)	The Bridge Franklin organizes a walkout strike. (DVS)		CTV News		
	9	9	9	CJCH	WS (N)	(DVS)	Law & Order (HDTV)	America's Most Wanted		Fox First		
	36	36	36	FOX	Friends	Friends	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Cops (N)	America's Most Wanted		
	12	12	12	NBC	News	NBC News	Paid Program	Parenthood "Pilot"		Law & Order (HDTV)	Law & Order	
	55	55	55	SCOR	MMA Show	Footy Show	Score Rewind		Cabby Unlimit	Score Now	Footy Show	World Ext.
sports spots	53	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre	Curling 2010 Tim Hortons Brier, Draw 2, (HDTV) From Halifax, (Live)	SportsCentre		SportsCentre			
	16	16	16	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)	CSI: Miami "Inside Out"	CSI: Miami (HDTV)	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami
	70	70	70	APTN	Flame	The Mix (N)	MTVY (N)	Rez Tunez	Blackfly	Chain Reaction ** (1996, Action)		
	37	37	37	BRVO	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Video	Spectacle	Elvis	Star Portraits	Books-Film	Spy Game ** (2001, Suspense)	
	49	49	49	COM	Comedy Now	Comedy Now	Corner Gas	Corner Gas	Hiccups	Dan for Mayor	The Simpsons	South Park
	18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer	Newsroom	CNN Presents "Scream Bloody Murder" Genocide.		The Simpsons		Swardson	
	38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	Cash Cab (N)	Cash Cab	Destroyed	Destroyed	Dirty Jobs	Vermintors
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes	Flipping Out "Reunion"	Million Dollar Listing		Property	Price	Makovero	
	46	46	46	HIST	Ancients Behaving Badly	Nostrodamus Effect (HDTV)	Cities of the Underworld		Black Hawk Down *** (2001, War)			
	17	17	17	MM	The Vampire Diaries	Dazed and Confused *** (1993, Drama)	Muchmusic Countdown		A Beautiful Mind (2001, Biography)			
cable variety	206	206	206	XPI	Richard III	(7:45) Philadelphia *** (1993, Drama) Tom Hanks.	Lava Storm (2008, Suspense) (HDTV) Valerie Valois.		I Am Legend			
	39	39	39	SHOW	I Am Legend	About a Girl	Slings and Arrows	Real Housewives of Atlanta		Real Housewives, Orange		Project Runway
	40	40	40	SILCE	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Real Housewives of Jersey	Real Housewives of Atlanta		Real Housewives, Orange		
	21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear	What Not to Wear	What Not to Wear	What Not to Wear		What Not to Wear		What Not
	22	22	22	W	(5) Ghost (1990, Fantasy)	Just Like Heaven *** (2005, Romance-Comedy)	P.S. I Love You *** (2007, Romance)		That's-Weird		Prank Patrol	Survive This
cable variety	27	27	27	YTV	iCarly	iCarly	iCarly	iCarly	Amer. Funniest Home Videos	Survive This		

Sunday				HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
prime time 3/7/10	31	31	31	ABC	News Center	World News	The Barbara Walters Special	Oscars Red	The 82nd Annual Academy Awards (HDTV) (Live)							
	7	7	7	ASN	In Fashion	etalk-Oscars	TMZ (N)	Gossip Girl	Undercover Boss				Nip/Tuck			
	11	11	11	CBC	Heartland (N)	(DVS)	Marple: They Do It With Mirrors (2009, Mystery)		CBC News: The National				Doc Zone			
	32	32	32	CBS	Evening News	WBZ News (N)	60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)	The Amazing Race 16	Undercover Boss				Cold Case			
	6	6	6	CIHF	Global Nat.	16:9-Picture	The Barbara Walters Special	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Family Guy	Family Guy	News Final (N)				
	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk-Oscars	Degrassi	The Amazing Race 16	Oscars Red	The 82nd Annual Academy Awards (HDTV) (Live)							
	36	36	36	FOX	Cold Case		'Til Death (N)	'Til Death (N)	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Family Guy	Family Guy	Fox First			
	12	12	12	NBC	News	NBC News	Dateline NBC		Bad Boys II *** (2003, Action) Martin Lawrence.							
	55	55	55	SSCR	Score Today		The WWE Experience	NBA Basketball	Washington Wizards at Boston Celtics. (Live)				SportsCentre			
	53	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre	Curling 2010 Tim Hortons Brier, Draw 5. (HDTV) From Halifax. (Live)			SportsCentre							
sports	16	16	16	A&E	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Exterminator	
	70	70	70	APTN	Blessings	Investigates	Canadian Geographic	Call of the Wild		Pushing Tin *** (1999, Comedy-Drama)						
	37	37	37	BRVO	Spectacle: Elvis	Arts & Minds	BravoFACT	Margaret Atwood	Red Dragon *** (2002, Suspense)							
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Laughs	Hiccups	Dan for Mayor	Comedy Now	Comedy Now	The Simpsons	South Park	Dane Cook			
	18	18	18	CNN	Newsroom		Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live		Newsroom			
	38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	MythBusters		To Be Announced				MythBusters			
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes Inspection		House	House	My First Place	Bang, Buck	Holmes Inspection		House-Bryan			
	46	46	46	HIST	Battle 360 (HDTV)		Battle 360 (HDTV)		Battle 360 (HDTV)		Tora! Tora! Tora! *** (1970, War)					
	17	17	17	MM	Make It or Break It		America's Best Dance Crew		So You Think You Can Dance				You Think			
	206	206	206	PIX	(6:40) Schindler's List **** (1993, Historical Drama) Liam Neeson,				The Silence of the Lambs (1991)							
cable variety	39	39	39	SHOW	I Am Legend	Kirk in Hair	Crash & Burn "Trust"	Ogre (2008, Fantasy) John Schneider.					Damages (N)			
	40	40	40	SILIC	Buy Me	Buy Me	The Big Flip	Marriage	X-Weighted "Monaca"	In Laws	In Laws		Matchmaker			
	21	21	21	TLC	48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence	48 Hours: Hard Evidence	48 Hours: Hard Evidence	48 Hours: Hard Evidence			Hard Evidence			
	22	22	22	W	(5) P.S. I Love You (2007)		Guilt by Association *** (2002, Drama) Mercedes Ruehl.		Judicial Indication (2007, Drama)							
	27	27	27	YTV	Sister Act 2	Hairspray *** (2007, Musical Comedy) John Travolta.			Fries That?	Fries That?			Survive This			

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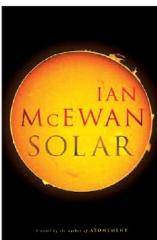
Fashion designer Linda Lundstrom has bid adieu to her eponymous fashion brand as she embarks on a new career path. The longtime Canadian designer has launched Linda Lundstrom Works, a new consulting company. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Going Out

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Solar by Ian McEwan

BOOK In his latest work, the Booker Prize-winning author finds some uncharacteristic comic relief in the serious subject of climate change. The novel revolves around a philandering physicist who by a remarkable turn of events gets to salvage both his own life and the world.



2 82nd Annual Academy Awards

SHOW This year's Academy Awards is shaping up to be a battle between James Cameron's Avatar and Kathryn Bigelow's The Hurt Locker. The whole producer-email affair is not helping the indie film's cause but the backstage drama will make for a nailbiting show. The Oscars airs Sunday on CTV at 8 p.m. E.T.

3 Plastic Beach: Gorillaz

ALBUM Damon Albarn may be a Blur to most North Americans, but his cartoon alter-egos have been making mega hits this side of the Atlantic over the past decade.

4 Alice in Wonderland

FILM Feed your head (and imagination) this week with Hollywood oddball Tim Burton's version of Lewis Carroll's classic tale. Alice is a sprightly teen in this 3-D take and, as we all know by now, Johnny Depp plays The Mad Hatter.

5 Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire

DVD A young, illiterate and obese black girl's harrowing journey through abusive home life has picked up plenty of awards and accolades over the last few months. Gabourey Sidibe is spectacular as the titular teen but the much-maligned Mo'nieque is a revelation as her mom from hell. Expect an Oscar for her on Sunday.

6 This Too Shall Pass: OK Go

VIDEO Here they go again. After breaking into the world of viral videos and music four years ago, the Chicago-based band is back with another piece of catchy tune-and-filmmaking.

7 Battlefield: Bad Company 2

GAME More wars, more weapons, more shootouts. If you like to charge down enemy lines in a blaze of glory, this new Xbox title puts you in good company.

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Delany stars new ABC show

Dana Delany is so well-regarded over at ABC that network prez Steve McPherson is inviting her to cheat on Desperate Housewives by starring in Body of Evidence, a show that, if picked up, could take her away permanently from Wisteria Lane. [ew.com](#)

movies&entertainment 33**Going Out****Mix of Six****Power of Movement**

When: Sunday
Where: Fountain Academy of Sacred Heart

On Sunday thousands of Canadians will do yoga to raise funds for critical arthritis research at Power of Movement 2010. A yoga "mega-sessions" will take place at 11 a.m. [powerofmovement.ca](#).

Rabbit Hole

When: Opens Friday and runs through March 28
Where: Neptune Theatre

This Pulitzer Prize winning play by David Lindsay-Abaire tells the story of a family dealing with the tragic loss of their four-year-old son. While some dramatic moments, the play has plenty of comedic bits too. For tickets, visit [nepuntheatre.com](#).

Joe Rogan

When: Friday & Saturday, 8 p.m.

Where: The Schooner Room

This stand-up comic is best known for providing colour commentary for the

Ultimate Fighting Championship and as host of the former hit show Fear Factor. His comedic style is described as intense with raw honesty. Tickets are \$59 and \$48.

Tim Hortons Brier

When: Saturday through March 14

Where: Halifax Metro Centre

You'll want to hurry hard to this event as Canada's best male curlers will take to the ice for eight days of exciting action. Individual ticket prices for draws start

at \$15 each. For complete details, visit [ticketatlantic.com](#).

Symphony Nova Scotia plays ABBA

When: Friday & Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Rebecca Cohn Auditorium

Conducted by Symphony Nova Scotia Music Director Bernhard Gueller, The Music of ABBA will feature hits like Dancing Queen and Money Money Money. Both performances are soldout,

but tickets might become available, so check [symphonovascotia.com](#).

An Evening With Our Lady Peace

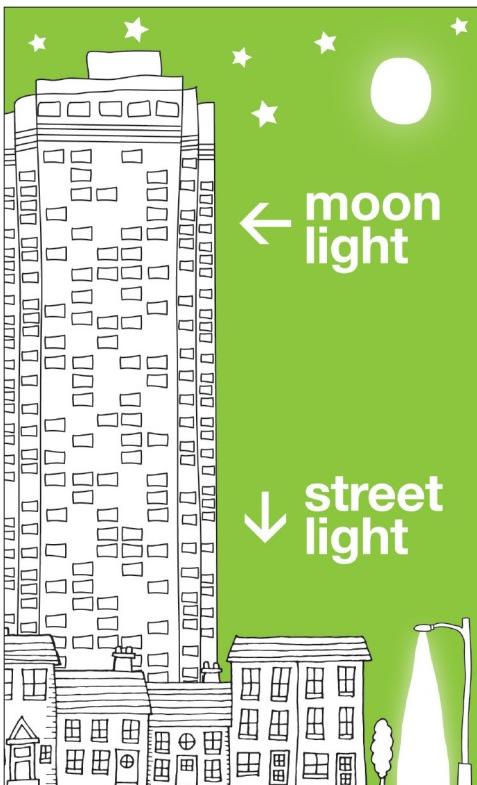
When: Sunday, 8 p.m.
Where: The Cunard Centre

This three-hour show featuring one of Canada's most popular rock bands will feature two sets — the first a playlist from songs from the hit record Clumsy, and a second set featuring new and old material. Tickets are \$44 and it's first-come, first serve.

In brief

MUSIC Before there was Shania Twain, Celine Dion, or Avril Lavigne, there was Anne Murray — a pop-country international crossover star who paved the way for female singers to emerge out of Canada. "The odds were against me, coming from Nova Scotia," Murray, 64, said in an interview. "When I was a kid, it was just a wild dream to think that I would've had a career like this, and I really didn't think that was possible. But things just kind of started to roll, and I was caught up in it, and I went with it."

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34 movies&entertainment



Burt Reynolds, 74, is resting at home after undergoing quintuple bypass surgery last week at a Florida hospital. Entertainment Tonight is reporting. He is currently under 24-hour nursing care, popeater.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Survives hazardous surgery

Celebrity Buzz

Putting away the clubs

AND BRINGING ON THE HUGS

Elin Nordegren has reportedly called a truce with Tiger Woods and has agreed to move back into their Florida home, according to Radar Online. Since Woods' philandering went public, Nordegren has been renting another house nearby. The embattled couple were spotted reconciling at Woods' house recently.

"They were in the backyard," a source tells the website. "Tiger kissed Elin on the cheek three times and they hugged."

Also, Woods' caddie claims he's "mad" at his boss — and wants everyone to know that he didn't have a damn thing to do with Tiger's cheating ways, TMZ.com reports.

Steve Williams — Wood's caddie for 11 years —



Bet he'd like to cut her wire

TOPIC OF CONVERSATION: HOW AWESOME AVATAR IS Jessica Simpson was spotted chatting with The Hurt Locker star Jeremy Renner during a cocktail party for his movie at the L.A. home of Madonna's manager Guy Oseary, people.com reports.

Simpson, who lives next door, arrived with hairdresser Ken Paves. But she spent most of her time with the Oscar nominee.

"Jeremy spent the night hitting on Jessica like crazy," the

told New Zealand's 60 Minutes that the scandal has "been the most difficult time of my life, no two ways about it, because every single person believed that I should know or did know or had something to do with it."

Williams added, "I knew nothing, that's my answer. I don't have to clarify or extend that answer, I knew nothing."

In fact, Williams claims he would have blown the whistle had he

source says. "They were really flirting up a storm."

Paves encouraged the two and, the source says, "Jessica loved it!"

When the party was over, the two ex-

changed numbers, entering them into their phones, adds the website.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



It is a film about blue people

I MEAN, HE MUST HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOUR Who knew that James Cameron was such a good sport?

The Avatar director says that he has no problem with skits poking fun at his kinda-sorta-successful movie this year at the Os-

cars, despite a story yesterday claiming Oscar producers yanked a Sacha Baron Cohen skit out of fear of upsetting Cameron.

"If they want to poke fun at Avatar Sunday, that's OK by me," Cameron told E! Online. METRO NEWS SERVICES

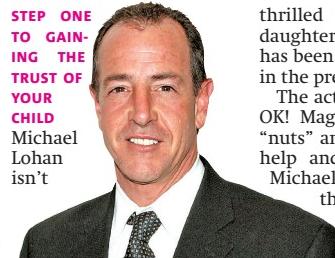
known what Woods was up to. Williams told the show that he's still furious with Tiger, saying, "Of course I'm mad at him, why would you not be? I'm close with his wife and he's got two lovely children."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Airing your dirty laundry

STEP ONE TO GAINING THE TRUST OF YOUR CHILD

Michael Lohan isn't



thrilled with the things daughter Lindsay Lohan has been saying about him in the press.

The actress recently told OK! Magazine her dad is "nuts" and "crying out for help and attention," but Michael says that's not the case.

"Is being concerned for your child and doing all you can, first privately, then publicly, nuts?" Michael asked Hollyscoop.

"Anyone and everyone who knows me knows I am far from nuts. As a matter of fact, I am considered quite the opposite."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

DEMI MOORE is bragging about speaking at the U.N., **JOE JONAS** is a Bond fan, **MINDY KALING** discovers life's wonderful secrets, and **J.K. ROWLING** is sorry she can't tweet more often.

@mrskutcher Having to stand up and speak in front of a crowd always scary but to do so right before Bill Clinton was a bit nerve wracking!

@joejonas Happy Birthday Daniel Craig. Thank you for 41 years of you being you.

@MindyKaling um, there's a secret 5-star restaurant at Disney above Pirates of the Caribbean where you can drink? **@iamdiddy** did you know about this?

@jk_rowling This is the real me, but you won't be hearing from me often I am afraid, as pen and paper is my priority at the moment.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

One hairy situation

NO RAZOR BURN

Oscar nominee Mo'Nique is happy being hairy. After she showed off her unshaven legs at the Golden Globes, the actress says she has no plans to

change her grooming habits, usmagazine.com reports.

"I tried shaving one time, and it was so uncomfortable and painful," she says. "I said never again would I do that to myself. I'm 42, and I'm very hairy."

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McSteamy to McDaddy

LET'S HOPE HE'S BETTER THAN THE ONE ABOVE HIM

Grey's Anatomy star Eric Dane and Rebecca Gayheart are now the proud parents of a baby girl, after the actress gave birth in Los Angeles Wednesday afternoon, according to Hollyscoop.



"They're both over the moon about it," a source says.

Dane recently talked about welcoming a daughter, saying, "It just makes sense that I'm having a girl. I don't know what it is, but I am excited it's a girl."

METRO WORLD NEWS

A man with a mission

A SPOT BESIDE ONE ÜBER-COOL SIBLING

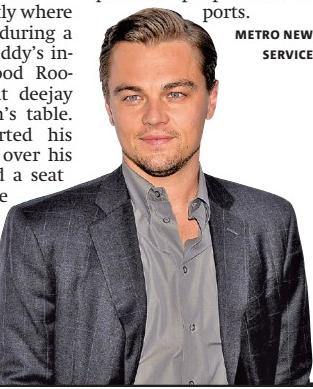
Leonardo DiCaprio knew exactly where he wanted to sit during a recent night at Teddy's inside the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel — at deejay Samantha Ronson's table.

The actor sported his baseball cap, low over his eyes, and grabbed a seat in between three ladies.

The Shutter Island star was handed drinks and acted very chatty as female clubgoers snapped his pic-

ture with their camera phones, people.com reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES





Today
Partly sunny
0° / -5°

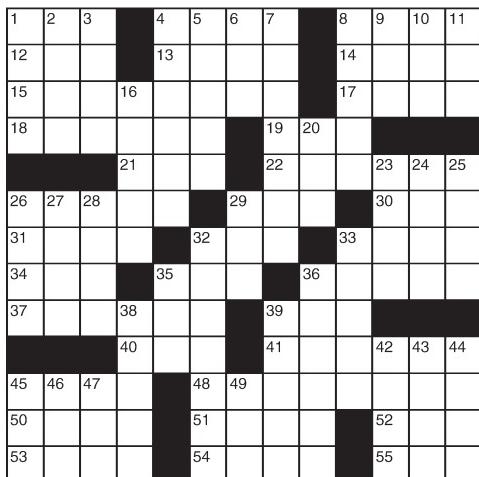
Saturday
Sunny
1° / -4°

Sunday
Flurries
2° / -4°



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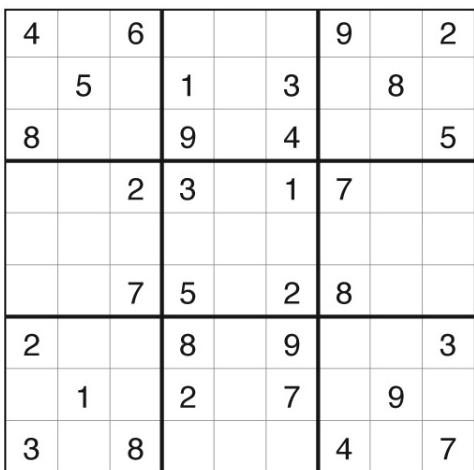
For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: metronews.ca/food



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



ACROSS

- 1 Miss Piggy's pronoun
- 4 Second-year student
- 8 Entreat
- 12 Rowing need
- 13 Actress
- 14 Obey reveille
- 15 Unreservedly
- 17 "My bad"
- 18 Soda shoppe treat
- 19 Chick's mama
- 21 On in years
- 22 Stymie
- 26 Leaves out
- 29 Proscribe
- 30 Peculiar
- 31 Bart's sister
- 32 Director's cry
- 33 Disposition
- 34 Barn resident
- 35 Comedian
- 36 Abdomen
- 37 Cravat accessory
- 39 Drunkard
- 40 "I" trouble
- 41 Consecrate with oil
- 45 Stretched to the limit
- 48 Trivial funds
- 50 Winnow
- 51 "Do – others ..."
- 52 Upper bound
- 53 Tactic
- 54 Card game for three
- 55 Mimic

DOWN

- 1 Takes blades to blades
- 2 Honolulu's home
- 3 Unyielding
- 4 Plagiarizes
- 5 Reacted to fireworks
- 6 Expert
- 7 Snobbish
- 8 Time
- 9 "Flying Down to —"
- 10 Venomous viper
- 11 "Undeniably"
- 16 Parkinson's medication
- 20 Many millen-
- 23 Implement
- 24 Pedestal occupant
- 25 Vortex
- 26 Coin aperture
- 27 New Zealand bird
- 28 Capri, e.g.
- 29 Annoy
- 32 Big star in Crina
- 33 Tagalong's remark
- 35 Peruke
- 36 Witticism
- 38 Insignificant
- 39 Annual visitor
- 42 Bygone Peruvian
- 43 Kind of tide
- 44 Work at the keyboard
- 45 Recipe meas.
- 46 Be under the weather
- 47 Extraterrestrial's transportation
- 49 Squid squirt

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

B A A L	M O B S	O L D	4	7	9	6	8	1	3	2	5
A L G A	I D E M	F A A	1	5	6	3	2	7	9	8	4
S T O P	A N D G O	F I R	2	3	8	4	9	5	7	1	6
H O G	T I E	T H A N K	3	8	5	1	7	4	2	6	9
O R	Q U E E N	E D I T	6	9	1	8	5	2	4	7	3
S H I P	M A N	E D I T	7	2	4	9	6	3	8	5	1
E O N	A N D	O V A	8	4	3	2	1	6	5	9	7
T E A L	I D O	K N E W	9	1	7	5	3	8	6	4	2
N O R M A	H I		5	6	2	7	4	9	1	3	8
L E D G E	M E D U S A										
I L O	H I T A N D D R U N										
F L U	A K I N	I S N T									
E S T	B E N E	E A S E									

On the web

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20



The Sun in Pisces is not the easiest of influences to deal with, especially as it makes you believe there is something strange going on.

LIBRA SEPT 23-OCT 22



As a cardinal sign you no doubt have high expectations of yourself, but sometimes it is better to sit back and let fate take its course rather than try too hard.

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21



Your prospects will improve dramatically early next week. Before then you must make it your No. 1 aim to rid your life of anything that no longer fits.

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22



You may be amused by a friend's antics but don't let it show. Others may not see the funny side.

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21



You seem to believe that something of vital importance is about to be taken away from you.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21



You know something good is going to happen but you want it to happen now, not later. Try to be patient.

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22



Make the most of cosmic activity in your fellow Water sign of Pisces to get things done. It does not matter what you do so long as you do something.

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20



There is no need to disguise your feelings or pretend to be something you are not. Express yourself openly over the next 24 hours.

LEO JULY 23-AUG 23



You may be in need of a rest but you are unlikely to get it – there is far too much going on in your immediate environment.

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 18



If you keep your eyes and ears open today you will discover something that benefits you in ways you can hardly imagine.

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 22



Everything happens for a reason, so don't waste time wondering why a certain situation worked out the way it did, just make the best of it.

PISCES FEB 19-MARCH 20



If your daily routine is in a rut, if things that used to inspire you now bore you, it may be time for a change. Start something new today.

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Take Five

Metro Recipe of the Day



Hot and Spicy Pepper, Rice and Beans

METHOD:

1. Heat oil in large, heavy-based pot, and cook onion, pepper, garlic and chili pepper 5 minutes or until just softened.
2. Add cubed sausage, then rice, and stir-fry 1-2 minutes. Pour in coconut milk and stock. Season and bring to boil. Stir in herbs, then cover and simmer 10 minutes.
3. Stir in beans and cook 5 minutes or until rice is tender and beans heated through. Serve, sprinkled with little thyme. SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



